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KUNA REPORTS OAPEC DECISION TO SUSPEND EGYPT

LD171352 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1208 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The OAPEC members today decided to suspend Egypt's membership in the organization and in three of its companies.

The president of the organization, Libyan Secretary of Heavy Industries 'Umar al-Muntasir, announced that at the end of its 2-day meeting here the OAPEC ministerial council agreed to prevent Arab oil from reaching Egypt effective today. Al-Muntasir told journalists that these decisions were made unanimously in the wake of the Arab countries' decisions to impose political and economic sanctions on Egypt for signing the peace treaty with Israel. The boycott decisions adopted by the Arab foreign and economy ministers in Baghdad at the end of last month called for banning the export of Arab oil to Egypt. It appears that the OAPEC decision to prevent oil from slipping into Egypt is an implementation of the decisions of the Baghdad conference.

Al-Muntasir stated that the three companies in which Egypt's membership is suspended are the Arab Maritime Company for the Transport of Petroleum, with headquarters in Kuwait; the Arab Company for Oil Investments, with headquarters in Ad-Dammam, Saudi Arabia; and the Arab Company for Petroleum Services, with headquarters in Tripoli, Libya.

A press statement issued by OAPEC says that the organization has decided that the Arab Maritime Company for the Transport of Petroleum will not use its tankers to deliver oil to or export oil from Egypt. It also has been decided that the Arab oil investments company will not help in any Egyptian project carried out within or outside Egypt, directly or indirectly. The Arab Company for Petroleum Services has decided not to carry out any activities inside Egyptian territory. The fourth company created by OAPEC, the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Company, has decided not to receive any tanker owned by Egypt or carrying its flag in the dry dock owned by Bahrain.

ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE IN TUNIS DISCUSSES TRANSFER

LD171718 Tunis TAP in English 1700 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tunis, April 17 (TAP)--The Arab League's committee of the six is following its proceeding in Tunis within the mission which the last Arab foreign and financial affairs ministers meeting, held in Baghdad, entrusted it with. The committee is charged with transferring the Arab League headquarters from Cairo to Tunis.

During a session held yesterday in the temporary league headquarters, the committee examined the possibility of (?organizing) general secretariat offices.

Meanwhile, according to the communique released after the meeting, "the Tunisian Government will provide a ground to build headquarters worthy of this organization".

Tayeb Sahbani, the committee of the six chairman and spokesman, specified, after this meeting, that the committee is about to fix its choice and that in the future, no hotel will be the league's headquarters.

Besides, the committee members are thought to have agreed on the choice of temporary headquarters for the Arab League, in the Avenue Kheriddine Pacha. These headquarters, a building under construction, includes about 100 offices in six storeys.

The committee of the six tackled as well the questions relating to the conditions of the transfer of the league headquarters to Tunis and of its staff's accommodations. Tayeb Sahbani specified that the committee took practical measures conforming to the Baghdad conference resolutions. He appealed to the league's staff in Cairo, inviting them to resume their work in Tunis. It is thought that in this appeal, a time is fixed for the staff to resmue their work within the league, before next May 26, conforming to the Arab League's Council decisions. The members of the staff who will not resume at the fixed date will be considered as resigning.

In this respect, it is thought that the staff working in the league's General Secretariat and in the specialized organizations in Cairo are about 5,000 people, among whom only [number indistinct] are not Egyptian. Since the Egyptian Government forbids the Egyptian members of the staff to leave Egypt, it is almost out of the question that they will resume their work in Tunis.

It is thought that the posts to be vacant after May 26 would be necessary for the league's good functioning and they would be offered to Tunisian staff.

Finally, it is to be mentioned that the committee of the six, which will resume its proceedings this morning, started yesterday to examine the question relating to the functioning of the information and boycott offices abroad.

ABU IYAD CALLS FOR WAR OF ATTRITION TO FOIL TREATY

JN151605 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1100 GMT 15 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has declared that the Palestinian revolution has decided to fight against the U.S. peace in the region, launch intensive operations and wage a war of attrition to foil the As-Sadat agreement of treason.

He said that the resistance has shifted from confrontation to attacks against the U.S.-Zionist plans and Arab reactionaries. What is needed now, he continued, is to widen the alliance between Syria and Iraq to include the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian revolution. He said that so far the response to the peace treaty has not been equal to the magnitude of events.

In a statement to the Lebanese AN-NIDA' newspaper published today, Abu Iyad revealed that the Egyptian People's Assembly is studying a draft law to give Egyptian nationality to every Palestinian living in Egypt. This is aimed at settling the Palestinians. We will resist this plan everywhere. He added that the Egyptian regime is doing its best to convince the Arab states hosting the Palestinians to grant them their nationality.

Abu Iyad called for tougher stands against the United States, saying that the Lebanese and Syrian arenas are where the Baghdad resolutions can be confirmed. The Lebanese front must not be the only arena of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

He added that stronger stands than those adopted in Baghdad are needed, and further stands are required against the United States and every European state that follows the United States in supporting the Egyptian regime, or that defends the peace agreement and the new tripartite pact.

He said that the PLO and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement have established their stands through blood. Iraq and Syria are called upon to determine their stand regarding the front of steadfastness. We are awaiting a Syrian meeting with the nationalist movements and forces in Lebanon to discuss issues and ways to handle them, and to discuss ways to confront the conspiracy.

Commenting on threats by Bashir al-Jumayyil, he said: It seems that there have been more promises from the Zionist enemy to enable this man to challenge the world and claim all of Lebanon. Abu Iyad stressed that no matter how things escalate, we and the nationalist movements in Lebanon will be able to confront any Israeli war of attrition.

ZUHAYR MUHSIN PROPOSES ARAB ALLIANCE TO FOIL TREATY

LD180914 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in an interview published here today, proposes the setting up of an alliance between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance in order to foil the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and its results. The head of the Military Department of the Liberation organization, Zuhayr Muhsin, told AL-QABAS that the purpose of such an alliance must be "to face the dangers of the Zionist aggression and the plans of the tripartite alliance of the United States, Israel and Egypt."

Muhsin, who heads As-Sa'iqah organization, describes the recent decisions of the conference of the Arab foreign and economy ministers to impose political and economic sanctions against Egypt as being the least that was aspired to and the least that the "crime" of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty deserves.

He reproaches the conference held in Baghdad at the end of last month for its failure to take measures against the United States, Sudan, and Oman for their support for the policy of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. However, Mr Muhsin expresses his satisfaction with the results of the conference, especially when "the kind and volume of the pressures exercised by the United States on some Arab countries" are taken into account.

Muhsin stresses the need to continue to implement the Baghdad decisions "to achieve total alienation from As-Sadat's regime." He discloses that the PLO did not ask Kin Husayn of Jordan to allow the fedayeen to return to Jordanian territory and to use it as a base for their activities.

He said: The talks the PLO has held with Jordan since last November have been concentrated on the political situation and cooperation between the two sides, especially in foiling the self-rule project called to be established by the peace treaty in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Muhsin expresses confidence that the inhabitants of the bank and the strip will reject the self-rule project. However, at the same time, he warns that the PLO will consider anyone accepting the project or cooperating in its implementation a traitor and will deal with him on this basis.

PLO'S SITTAH SAYS JORDAN, PLO HAVE SAME GOALS, OUTLOOK

JN151210 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Apr 79 p 17 JN

[Excerpts] Amman--Hamid Abu Sittah, head of the PLO Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, has stated that all aspects of cooperation between Jordan and the PLO are aimed at warding off dangers to our people, working on behalf of the steadfastness of our brethren inside the occupied territories, and resisting the schemes concocted against them.

Abu Sittah added: As Jordan has declared, there is no place for tutelage, and Jordan has no ambitions in assisting and cooperating with the PLO in implementing this pan-Arab duty.

The PLO and Jordanian positions are identical. Jordan is aware of all the schemes which are being concocted against the Palestinian people. Therefore, I can say that in the present political context, the tactics, political course, strategy, and objectives of Jordan and the PLO are one.

We can consolidate our political position and strengthen the northern and eastern fronts if the PLO, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq, backed by the Arab nation with its human and material potential, work together. There is no other alternative.

We will face difficulties in transferring funds into the West Bank. The enemy will try to hamper our moves. We shall foil all his political and economic schemes. The enemy is seeking to achieve an economic merger with the interests of our people in the occupied territories, while we want to preserve the independence of our people in these territories.

We shall do our best to change the balance of power so they will be on our side. Only then will we be able to give the Palestinian people their rights. Anything else will be baseless.

ALF ISSUES STATEMENT CONDEMNING AS-SADAT-BEGIN ALLIANCE

JN132012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1942 GMT 13 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 April--The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has declared that the positive changes introduced in the Arab area, foremost of which are the Iraqi-Syrian National Action Charter and the anticipated birth of the unionist state, will certainly have a positive impact on Lebanon.

In a statement distributed here today on the fourth anniversary of the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah massacre, the ALF said that the anniversary comes at a time when the As-Sadat-Begin alliance is resorting to the use of the isolationist forces against Lebanon's Arabism and the Palestinian revolution in the aftermath of the conclusion of the As-Sadat-Zionist peace treaty.

The statement added that all the forces operating under the banner of the capitulationist imperialist-Zionist alliance want to render Lebanon an arena for covering up their conspiratorial designs, for striking at Lebanon's unity and Arabism and for harming the Arabs' fateful issue, Palestine.

In conclusion, the statement pledges that the ALF will continue the struggle and confront all plots against Lebanon's Arabism and unity and against the Palestinian revolution in its march toward the achievement of its goals in liberating the soil of Palestine.

GAZA OFFICIALS ISSUE STATEMENT CONDEMNING PEACE TREATY

JN141052 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 14 Apr 79 JN

[Text of statement by mayors and mukhtars of the Gaza Strip denouncing Egyptian-Israeli peace--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In these difficult times when a separate peace treaty has been signed between the government of President as-Sadat and the Israeli Government--a treaty which directly harms our legitimate rights and national aspirations--we, the Palestinian people of the Gaza Strip, as an inseparable part of the Palestinian nation and the entire Arab nation, consider it our duty to define our position, express our opinion and declare our will.

On this painful occasion, our people insistently reaffirm their full commitment to their sole and legitimate leadership, the PLO, which is the symbol of their unity and the expresion of their will in all forums and under all circumstances. Our people, who have suffered dispersion, pain, and deprivation for the past 30 years, reaffirm today that they will not relinquish their legitimate rights. They pledge to their martyrs, to themselves, and to the entire world that they will remain committed to these rights, protect them, and continue the struggle to achieve them.

By denouncing the separate peace treaty, our people record that this treaty is a deviation from Arab unanimity and from Arab ranks, because it ignores the demand for a full withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied territories; it fails to reaffirm the Arab character of Jerusalem; it fails to halt settlement operations and land confiscations; and it fails to reaffirm the Palestinian Arab people's full right to self-determination with a free and independent will.

Therefore, we strongly stress our categorical rejection of the so-called autonomy plan conspiracy, because it is a conspiracy which would enable the occupation forces to achieve their objectives against our people and nation.

Our Palestinian people, whose blood has been mixed with the blood of the martyrs of the entire Arab nation in their struggle for freedom, on this occasion praise our glorious Arab nation under the leadership of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. Our people also praise the Baghdad summit conference resolutions and reaffirm their trust in God and the fraternal Egyptian people, who are noble in their Arabism and their principles and who shall remain, despite all the circumstances and pressures, a strong supporter of the Palestinian Arab people until their full objectives are achieved, namely, the establishment of a Palestinian state, the reaffirmation of the Palestinian people's role in service of their sanctities and the recovery of all their rights.

In conclusion, we look to all the forces of freedom and peace in this world for more support and backing for to our national leadership, our people and our nation.

BAHRAIN

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT TO AL-MAWQIF MAGAZINE

JN161044 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 16 April--Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah has called for increased and constant cooperation among the Arab Gulf states to achieve a degree of integration among the countries of the area commensurate with the unionist and pan-Arab aims and with the aspirations of the area's peoples.

In a statement to the Bahraini magazine AL-MAWQIF, published here today, the Bahraini minister said: My latest tour of the countries of the area, within the framework of joint action and to achieve unified views on the developments in the area and the world, gave me an optimistic impression that the views of the officials of this area about the future are very close. The leaders of this area must continue to hold direct dialogs.

The Bahraini minister stressed that the peace we want is a comprehensive peace acceptable to all parties, a peace that insures the basic principles of restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate right to return to their homeland. He said that a peace based on bilateral foundations is unacceptable. Bilateral peace is temporary and dubious.

The Bahraini minister pointed out that revival of the eastern and northern fronts is the real answer to Israel's ambitions. He said that without an Arab force capable of confronting the Zionist military challenge, no peace can be achieved. A just peace is one concluded between strong parties.

On the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the Bahraini minister stressed that this treaty is not a first step toward a comprehensive peace. The manner in which the treaty was signed represents a separate solution achieved without giving any weight to Arab public opinion and without contact or coordination with the other parties. The United States is responsible for this. He further said that this treaty ignores the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and does not recognize their real representative, the PLO. The treaty also ignores Jordan and the Golan. He said that the treaty strengthened the fierce cultural onslaught against the Arab nation, and for this reason what was agreed upon in Baghdad represents one stage in the Arab struggle.

The Bahraini minister pointed out that Egypt is not the only peace advocate. All the Arabs are peace advocates, but on bases agreed upon by all parties, because the Palestine question and the Israeli onslaught do not concern just one specific country. Concerning the Palestine issue, Israel does not mean the Palestinians but the Arab nation. For this reason this question is a collective Arab responsibility.

The Bahraini minister said that the United States, Israel and Egypt know that this treaty will not lead to the just peace we desire. They believe, according to their own calculations, that the Arab world may agree with the treaty. But the Arabs have firmly and unanimously rejected the treaty.

Regarding the fate of relations between Bahrain and Egypt after the signing of the treaty, the Bahraini minister said: Consular activities and individual and group interests in the trade and economic fields will continue as in the past. The business and interests of citizens between the two countries will be maintained.

The Bahraini minister reassured Egyptians living in Bahrain that their status will not be affected. He said that they will live as brothers in their second homeland, Bahrain. Their daily lives will not be affected bedause we are expressing an economic and political stand to answer the separate peace treaty with the Zionist enemy.

Commenting on the latest U.S. threats to occupy the oil wells in the gulf, the Bahraini minister said: Protection of any area in the world is the responsibility of the people of the area and the owners of the interests. Neither the United States nor any big country has the right to interfere in areas which are the responsibility and jurisdictions of others.

THAI DEPUTY PREMIER HONGLADAROM PAYS VISIT, LEAVES

JN161214 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 16 April--Thai Deputy Prime Minister Sunthon Hongladarom arrived in Manama at noon today from Riyadh on a short visit to Bahrain. During his visit, he will hold talks with senior Bahraini officials on bolstering trade and economic cooperation between Bahrain and Thailand.

16 Apr Departure

JN162111 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 16 April--Thai Deputy Prime Minister Sunthon Hongladarom concluded his visit to Bahrain this evening. During the visit he held talks with Minister of Commerce and Agriculture Habib al-Qasim on commercial and economic relations and ways of consolidating them.

The Thai deputy prime minister arrived in Manama this morning from Riyadh.

CUBAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTER CONCLUDES 4-DAY VISIT

JN151453 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1318 GMT 15 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 April--Cuban Transportation Minister Antonio Enrique Usson left Manama for Qatar today at the end of a 4-day visit to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

KUWAITI OIL MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL PRICE HIKE

JN171557 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 April--Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has asked the oil companies not to raise prices, which are determined by the oil-producing countries, when they sell oil to the developing and consuming countries.

In a press statement today, the Kuwaiti oil minister explained that the oil prices will be discussed at the OPEC ordinary ministerial conference in June. He added that this subject will be listed on the biannual agenda of the OPEC ministerial conference.

The Kuwaiti minister denied that Kuwait has decided to exempt the developing countries from the price rise it introduced on its oil, bringing the price to $15.80, in implementating the resolution adopted by OPEC at its March meeting. During the meeting, it was agreed to raise prices by 9.5 percent, effective at the beginning of April.

KUWAIT REPORTEDLY PRESSURED TO REJECT U.S. PLAN FOR UN FORCES

ID161024 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Kuwait, 16 April--Kuwait's AL-ANBA reports today that the United States plans to submit a draft resolution to the UN Security Council providing for the dispatch of UN forces to take up positions on the borders of the occupied West Bank and Sinai with Israel, similar to those stationed at the 1948 armistice lines.

The American plan, the paper writes, forms part of the wider plan to impose autonomous rule in the West Bank in accordance with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

In a dispatch from New York, the paper says that Arab contacts are being made with Kuwait in its capacity as member of the UN Security Council with a view to securing the rejection of the American plan. Kuwait is being persuaded not to vote in favor of the draft resolution in the UN Security Council debate as a way of expressing the Arab rejection of the peace treaty. The paper adds that Syria and Iraq have been intensifying contacts with Kuwait in this regard.

SENEGALESE PRIME MINISTER DIOUF PAYS VISIT

ID161124 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Apr 79 ID

[Summary] Senegalese Prime Minister Abdou Diouf arrived here at noon today for a state visit to Kuwait. He was welcomed at Kuwait International Airport by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah, a number of ministers and senior officials.

Mr Diouf is accompanied by an important delegation, including the Senegalese minister of finance and economic affairs and high-ranking officials.

Talks With As-Sabah

ID171356 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1216 GMT 17 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Kuwait--Senegalese Prime Minister Abdou Diouf discussed here today with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah increased bilateral economic cooperation and the Middle East situation. The 2-hour meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah and members of the delegation accompanying Mr Diouf on his present visit to Kuwait.

The under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Rashid ar-Rashid, said after the meeting that the talks dealt with relations between the two countries in particular, Arab-African relations in general, and political issues of mutual interest. Ar-Rashid told KUNA that the Senegalese side showed complete support for the Arab issues and especially the Palestinian issue. He said that in the sphere of bilateral cooperation, the two sides discussed existing joint projects and the chances of expanding this cooperation in the future.

Prime Minister Departs

LD180802 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0708 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Abdou Diouf, prime minister of Senegal, today left here for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the end of a 3-day official visit to Kuwait.

He was seen off at the airport by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, with whom he had talks on bilateral relations and the developments in the situation in the Middle East.

QATAR

CUBAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN151454 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Doha, 15 April--Cuban Transportation Minister Antonio Enrique Usson arrived in Doha from Bahrain today on a visit to Qatar that will last several days.

The visit of the Cuban transportation minister is part of his tour of several Arab states.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRESS SPECULATES ON ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, UN ROLE

JN180921 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 18 April--The newspaper AL-JAZIRAH speculates that there will be a war between the Arabs and the Zionist entity in early summer this year. The paper says the escalation of Palestinian fedayeen action inside the occupied Arab territory, the Lebanese Army's control over Lebanon's southern border, and the opening of the Jordanian front to fedayeen action confirm this speculation.

The newspaper AL-BILAD calls on the big powers to support the UN role in establishing a just peace in the area. The paper says the UN role is the only way to achieve the required relaxation and actual solution of the area's crisis. It says that a UN role will be internationally legalized and will be more acceptable because it will embody the many UN resolutions on the Middle East.

UAE

MINISTER OF ECONOMY SUPPORTS SANCTIONS AGAINST EGYPT

JN161605 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 April--"The UAE has implemented the Baghdad summit resolutions calling for imposing a boycott on Egypt, particularly in connection with the joint Arab economic organizations and establishments." This was stated by Shaykh Sultan ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, UAE minister of economy and trade.

Shaykh al-Mu'alla was speaking to an EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY correspondent following a meeting he held today with Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, to discuss UAE measures for implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions.

He added that the Ministry of Economy has asked all public and private organizations and firms operating in the UAE, particularly those that offer direct or indirect economic aid to Egypt, to adhere fully to the Baghdad summit resolutions and to implement the boycott measures against Egypt. He explained that the Ministry of Economy has also asked the Arab Boycott of Israel Bureau to adopt the necessary and appropriate measures for implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions in order to prevent the Israeli economy from infiltrating into Arab markets.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PRAGUE INTERPARLIAMENTARY SESSION

JN131400 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 13 April--A UAE parliamentary delegation under Hamad Abu Shihab, first deputy chairman of the National Federal Council, left the UAE for Prague today to attend the spring session of the Interparliamentary Union Council opening in the Czechoslovak capital next Monday and lasting 8 days.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY has learned that the UAE delegation will submit three working papers to the council. The first paper is related to the UAE's viewpoint on the law of space, which is to be discussed for the first time in the parliamentary conference. The second concentrates on the importance of international cooperation in the field of education. The third paper calls for the need to end colonialism and fight racial discrimination in the African Continent.

CUBAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

JN180941 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 April--Cuban Transportation Minister Antonio Usson arrived here this morning from Doha on a 2-day visit to the UAE on a tour of a number of countries in the area. On arriving he said that he is carrying a message from Cuban President Dr Fidel Castro to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, inviting him to participate in the sixth nonalined conference, to be held in Havana in September.

YEMEN--YAR

PAPER DISCLOSES PRESENCE OF ROYAL IMAM CAMPS

JN161116 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 16 April--The YAR newspaper AR-RA'IY AL-'AMM today reports the presence of camps in the northern YAR led by reactionary royal imam commands which are acting to overthrow the YAR leadership. The paper says that these camps, which were established in the areas of (Al-Baq', Ha'il and Al-'Arsh) in the north, are financed by foreign parties.

The paper reports that Yemeni factions held conferences in the city of Raydah and in other YAR cities with the aim of casting doubt on the YAR leadership's intentions to achieve unity and of foiling the results of the summit meeting between the leaders of the two parts of Yemen, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

REPORTAGE ON U.S. TRADE, ECONOMIC DELEGATION VISIT

As-Sadat Delegation Meeting

NC171330 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat this afternoon received Robert Strauss, special adviser to U.S. President Jimmy Carter on commercial affairs, and the accompanying trade-economic delegation which arrived in Cairo from Washington this morning.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, head of the presidential office Hasan Kamil and ministers of economy and foreign trade, industry, and finance.

As-Sadat Statement

NC171802 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--President Anwar as-Sadat has reaffirmed that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is considered the cornerstone for the beginning of a new history of the entire region. He said: In order to overcome the economic difficulties facing us, we in Egypt are in dire need of pursuing nontraditional methods of boosting our economy through a large economic plan similar to the Marshall Plan for Europe.

At this meeting with a U.S. economic delegation today, President as-Sadat added that he, along with Vice President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, has agreed to form an official body under Dr Muhammad Khalil [name as received] to handle the Carter economic plan and to grant Khalil absolute powers to adopt appropriate decisions for granting all the necessary facilities for the investors and experts who will be participating in this project.

President as-Sadat explained that when he met with FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt while on his way back from Washington to Cairo, the chancellor expressed his country's readiness to participate in the Carter plan. The president stressed that it was important that both the FRG and the United States should participate in this project. President as-Sadat also said that the Japanese have expressed their readiness to cooperate in this large project, and tht it was likely that some Arab states would participate as well.

President as-Sadat continued: We have some urgent problems--food, security and housing. We in Egypt suffer from shortages in utilities because of the last 30 years of wars, continuous tension and (?military) expense.

President as-Sadat forther said: We will not begin economic development from a vacuum. Our land is considered one of the best in the world, as testified by world experts. We also have the water that is suitable for irrigation. If the water is exploited correctly, it will lead to new levels of food production, housing and the building of new societies and cities. He added: We are still living on only 4 percent of the total area of Egypt.

President as-Sadat emphasized that Egypt is rich in natural and human resources, saying: We do not have an energy problem; our oil production will reach 1 million barrels a day in 1982 after we take over the Ra's Sidr oilfields in Sinai in October and after we regain all the oilfields and exploit the new oil discoveries in the Gulf of Suez.

President as-Sadat pointed out that the revenue from the Suez Canal is currently $500 million annually, and that this will increase to $1 billion next year after completing the first stage of the project for developing and deepening the canal. He said that with these huge resources we can accomplish miracles. President as-Sadat added: The time has come for our economy to be founded on agriculture after having neglected in in the past, believing--according to Marxist theory--that industry alone can change life and everything else in Egypt. However, this has proved wrong.

At the end of the meeting President as-Sadat expressed his deep gratitude to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the U.S. Congress, the American people and the U.S. economic delegation for its visit to Egypt.

After his meeting with the U.S. delegation, President as-Sadat held a closed meeting attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, President Carter's trade adviser Mr Robert Strauss, delegation member Senator Abraham Ribicoff, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts.

Khalil-Eilts Statements

NC172035 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat this afternoon met with U.S. President Jimmy Carter's special trade adviser, Mr Robert Strauss, and the trade and economic delegation accompanying him; the delegation arrived in Cairo this morning from Washington. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, head of the president's office Hasan Kamil, and the ministers of economy and foreign trade, industry and finance.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Khalil stated that an exchange of views took place between Egypt and the United States. The ministers concerned will meet with the U.S. delegation to exchange views on the economic issues the U.S. delegation came to discuss.

Asked about the exchange of the instruments of ratification between Egypt and Israel, the prime minister said that this would take place between 22-26 April, and that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan would attend. He said that if the representation in the ceremony was on a level less than ministerial, the Egyptian representation would be on the same level.

Asked about the meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli oil ministers, he said that they had met at 0830 today to discuss handing over the oilfields and equipment to Egypt.

Asked if there were changes in the date for handing over the oilfields, he replied in the negative, saying that oil pumping is continuing normally.

U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts stated that President as-Sadat held several meetings, the first being with Robert Strauss and his delegation. During this meeting, the president explained his views on Middle East developments, the economic situation in Egypt, and what needs to be done regarding U.S. capital investment in Egypt.

The president then held another meeting with Robert Strauss, Ribicoff and other U.S. officials during which he spoke about the economic problems in Egypt and the ways of solving them. He then met with Strauss, who handed him a message from U.S. President Jimmy Carter; the ambassador refused to reveal the contents of this message. Finally, the president met with Mr Ribicoff and the U.S. ambassador and discussed the exchange of the ratification instruments between Egypt and Israel.

Asked if the meeting dealt with the issue of contacts between the United States and the PLO, the ambassador replied in the negative.

Vice President Mubarak affirmed that President as-Sadat will leave for Al-'Arish and Beersheba on 27 May, as scheduled.

AS-SADAT GETS MESSAGE FROM CARTER, SENDS MESSAGE TO BEGIN

NC171544 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1456 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--Subsequent to the meeting President Anwar as-Sadat held today with a U.S. economic delegation led by Robert Strauss, special adviser on trade to U.S. President Carter, U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts said that Strauss delivered a personal message to President as-Sadat from U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Senator Abraham Ribicoff, a member of the delegation, said that President as-Sadat handed him a personal message for Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL ON RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES

NC170700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil has emphasized that Egypt is very eager to safeguard Arab solidarity despite actions by some Arab states which do not conform with the dictates of Arab solidarity. He said: We insist on our presence in the Arab League. All that has happened is that we have frozen our activities in the league to counter suspect actions by some Arab states, but Egypt's membership continues.

In an interview which AL-AHRAM will publish tomorrow, the prime minister said that Egypt has rejected the decision to transfer the Arab League's headquarters. It has also refused to allow the documents to be moved from Cairo or Egyptian officials at the league to be transferred to Tunis.

Regarding Arab capital and investments in Egypt, the prime minister said that there is no fear or danger to these funds and we will protect them and take good care of them. Regarding the investment companies, he said that they were registered in accordance with Egyptian law, which fully protects them. Any attempt to interfere in the activities of these companies will be regarded as an illegal action and we will not accept it.

Regarding the withdrawal by some Arab states of their ambassadors in Cairo, Dr Khalil said: Egypt acts and will act in the future on the basis of reciprocal treatment and on the basis of the conduct of each Arab state.

We have severed our relations with Jordan because it was Jordan which demanded that they be severed. As for Iraq, our relations with it were actually broken but Iraq kept a mission consisting of 46 diplomats. We kept them here to safeguard Arab solidarity and out of our desire to give an opportunity to the Arab states to reconsider their position. Some Arab states recalled their ambassadors for consultation and Egypt had to act likewise. We recalled our ambassadors for consultation but did not touch the missions accredited to these states.

Regarding the dissolution of the People's Assembly and the motives behind this action, Dr Khalil said: After the peace treaty, Egypt is now entering a new phase which requires that parties be granted freedom. Because the present party law stipulates that to form a new party it must have 20 deputies in the People's Assembly, it became necessary to dissolve the People's Assembly in order to cancel this condition and give an opportunity to all new parties to enter new parliamentary elections.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL CONFERS WITH IMF MISSION

JN151525 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Cairo, 15 April--Dr Mustafa Khalil, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, met before noon today with the IMF mission currently visiting Egypt under Richard Goode, director of the fiscal affairs department. The meeting was attended by Dr Hamid as-Sayih, minister of economy, foreign trade and economic cooperation; and Dr 'Ali Lutfi, finance minister.

Dr As-Sayih stated that the prime minister reviewed with the IMF mission the stages of implementing the agreement concluded between Egypt and the IMF in June of last year. This agreement allows Egypt to receive $720 million over a 3-year period to be used to reform the Egyptian economy. Dr as-Sayih added that Egypt has so far received $100 million under the agreement. The mission will leave Cairo tomorrow for Washington, where it will submit a report on the results of its talks with Egypt to the fund's board of directors.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI RECEIVES SINAI DELEGATION

JN151740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 April--Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, minister of defense and war production, met at noon today with a delegation representing the chieftains and dignitaries of the tribes and clans in Sinai and its liberated areas, as well as a delegation representing the Sons of Rafah, who came over to Sinai through the International Red Cross to express their support for the president's steps toward peace and the signing of the peace treaty. They also came to express their pleasure over the return of Egyptian sovereignty over Sinai following the evacuation of the Israeli forces and to participate in the celebrations marking the return of Al-'Arish, the capital of Sinai, to Egyptian sovereignty on 26 May.

Welcoming the Sinai delegation, Lt Gen 'Ali said: I am pleased to meet with you in your homeland. The armed forces are closely linked with Egypt's brethren on its border. Thus there are strong ties between these forces and the people of Sinai and those of the western and southern desert and wherever the border is. The defense minister added: I am happy to meet with you today not because the armed forces will play a role in the construction of Sinai, but because I want to thank the people of Sinai for their help and support for the armed forces during the past (?30) years.

He said that President Anwar as-Sadat, during his visit to the township of Qantarah Sharq in the second half of February, issued instructions to reopen the border in Sinai and to void the requirement for permits to visit it. He explained that this measure has been implemented and will continue on a wider scale after Al-'Arish has been regained. He added that when he annexed parts of Sinai to the canal towns, the president emphasized that Sinai belongs to us all and that it will enter a new phase which will compensate its people for what they have been missing since 1967.

The defense minister stressed to the people of Sinai that the armed forces will serve Sinai as they always have, and will give every means of help and support to the northern and southern parts of Sinai. He said that nobody should be given precedence over the armed forces as far as participation in the construction of Sinai is concerned.

The defense minister praised the innocent martyrs of the sons of the armed forces and the sons of Sinai. He said that the peace, whose pillars were laid by President as-Sadat through his historic initiative and through the splendid performance of the armed forces during the glorious October War, will be a good beginning for Sinai to assume the position it deserves.

The defense minister pointed out that Maj Gen Labib Sharab has been appointed director of war intelligence to succeed Maj Gen Muhammad Husayn Shawkat, who has been appointed governor of northern Sinai. He said that Maj Gen Sharab participated in the Washington negotiations. He is from Sinai and this confirms the pride of the armed forces in Sinai and its sons.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI DISCUSSES MILITARY PRODUCTION

NC171548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the minister of defense and war production and the commander in chief of the armed forces, held a meeting this morning at the headquarters of the War Production Ministry attended by Minister of State for War Production Dr Kamal Tawfiq Nassar, the ministry under secretaries and the chairmen of the boards of directors of military factories.

During the 4-hour meeting the war production plan was discussed, which during the first quarter of this year achieved a 16-percent production increase compared to the same period last year. A review was also made of the arms situation, U.S. military aid and its connection with the war production plan for the next 3 years, as well as the required U.S. expertise to develop the factories.

PETROLEUM MINISTER HILAL SAYS OAPEC MEETING ILLEGAL

NC172101 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 April 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 April--Petroleum Minister Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal has stated that he agreed with Israeli Energy Minister Yi'zhaq Moda'i to form two working groups on oil--one Egyptian and the other Israeli--to study production figures, plans and the conditions of the oilfields in Sinai which are now in the hands of the Israelis.

At a press conference this evening after his return from the Gulf of Suez, where he met with the Israeli energy minister, engineer Hilal added that he asked the Israeli side to supply Egypt with technical information on these fields, and that this information will be received in two installments on Sunday and Tuesday. The first meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli working groups, he went on, will be held 1 week after this information is received, at a place to be agreed upon later.

Engineer Hilal said that after the Israeli Knesset and Egyptian People's Assembly endorsements of the peace agreement, the Israeli energy minister contacted Prime Minister Dr. Mustafa Khalil about a week ago and proposed a meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli sides to agree on implementation of the stages of the handover of the oilfields in the Gulf of Suez. The petroleum minister said that according to the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, Egypt would take over the oilfields 7 months after the exchange of the instruments of ratification. He added that he had a fruitful meeting with the Israeli energy minister. He asserted that problems might arise between both sides but that they could be solved if good intentions prevailed and if both sides were prepared to implement the provisions of the agreement.

Regarding the OAPEC ministerial meeting being held in Kuwait, the petroleum minister said that this meeting is illegal and unofficial because the OAPEC constitution stipulates that Egypt must be invited to attend any ministerial meeting of the organization.

Asked about Egypt's oil imports from the Arab world, Engineer Hilal said that Egypt does not import one drop of oil from the Arab world. He explained that Egypt produces about 25 million tons of oil annually, consumes about 12 million tons and exports the remainder.

CIVIL ADMINISTRATION TAKES OVER SINAI AREAS

NC171603 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 17 April--The civil authorities today took over the liberated areas in northern and southern Sinai in implementation of President Anwar as-Sadat's decision to hand them over after the signing of the peace treaty. These areas include Rammanah, (Baluzah), (Al-Hizbah), and (Rabi'ah) in the North Sinai Governorate; and Ra's Sadr and Abu Rudays in the South Sinai Governorate.

The border forces were supervising these areas before President as-Sadat's decision to hand them over to civil authority. Following Israeli withdrawal, all liberated areas in Sinai will be handed over successively to the Egyptian civil authorities in implementation of the peace treaty.

ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER FAO, WHO OFFICES FROM CAIRO REJECTED

NC171704 Cairo MENA in English 1535 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, April 17 (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali urged officials of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) to avoid the harms of the Arab difference and halt its harmful repercussions on the two organisations and their activities and on the international cooperation in general.

The minister pointed out that the two organisations must be kept away from these maneuvers so as to be able to accomplish their effective role for achieving the social peace and food security.

In his messages to the director general of FAO, Edward Soma, and the director general of WHO, the minister stressed Egypt's absolute rejection of the attempts of a number of Arab states to transfer the regional activities conducted by the two organisations in Egypt. The minister pointed out in his two messages that Egypt believes that what the Arab states had adopted in Baghdad is not in accordance with the Arab legality and the Arab League Charter and a flagrant violation of its charter and an attempt to enforce this difference on the international organisations. We are still at the beginning of the way for establishing peace in the Middle East, something that demands the continuation of solidarity at Arab and international levels.

FOURTH POLICE RAID ON LEFTWING OFFICES

NC171535 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, Apr 17 (AFP)--Egyptian police have carried out their fourth raid in three months on offices of a leftwing party. Last night they entered the offices of the Progressive Unionist Rally and seized equipment which had been used to print a pamphlet calling on Egyptians to vote "no" in this week's referendum on the peace treaty with Israel.

MINISTER OF STATE RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM VANCE

NC141526 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met today with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. The U.S. ambassador later stated that he conveyed a message from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to the minister of state in reply to a message from Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil.

Mr Eilts stated that he discussed with Dr Ghali the arrangements for the exchange of the peace treaty instruments of ratification which will take place on 22 April. The ambassador added that he will attend the ceremony on behalf of U.S. President Carter.

GHALI RECEIVES UGANDAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO

JN151728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 15 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Cairo, 15 April--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received here today Jack William Bunyen Yezi, Ugandan Ambassador in Cairo, at the latter's request.

MENA has learned that the Ugandan ambassador briefed Dr Ghali on the recent developments in Uganda and on the formation of the new government there. MENA has also learned that Dr Ghali expressed concern over the latest developments in Uganda. He expressed Egypt's desire for (?friendly) relations between the two fraternal peoples. He added that the Egyptian Government is holding consultations with a number of friendly states concerning recognition of the new government in Uganda.

AMBASSADORS TO QATAR, UAE RETURN TO CAIRO

NC131840 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Apr 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 April--Egyptian Ambassador to Qatar Salih Zaghlul and Egyptian Ambassador to the UAE Salah 'Izzat arrived in Cairo today from Doha and Abu Dhabi respectively.

ECONOMY MINISTER RECEIVES BRITISH AMBASSADOR WYRE

NC112018 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The British Government has decided to send a high-level trade mission to Egypt on Wednesday with the aim of promoting British exports and expanding British investments in Egypt. Following a meeting held today with the British ambassador in Cairo, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Hamid as-Sayih said that the British ambassador gave him a letter concerning the financing of the development of the steel bars project in Abu Za'bal, under which 10 million pounds sterling will be given for this purpose. During the meeting, they also reviewed the sewage projects in greater Cairo to which Britain has contributed 50 million pounds sterling.

Wyre-Khalil Meeting

NC141613 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1514 GMT 14 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 April--Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil today received British Ambassador to Egypt Mr Michael Wyre. His excellency also received Sudanese Ambassador to Egypt Muhammad Mirghani.

Wyre-Ghali Meeting

NC141614 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 April--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met today with the new British ambassador to Egypt, Michael Wyre. They discussed the latest Middle East developments and the forthcoming steps concerning the negotiations on full autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF NEW AMBASSADORS

NC171331 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 April--President Anwar as-Sadat today received the credentials of a number of new ambassadors to Egypt. He received the credentials of Finnish Ambassador (Byron Alof George Alholm), Sri Lanka Ambassador (Edward Sazu Kaling), Chilean Ambassador (George Leon Vila Reel), and British Ambassador Michael Scot Wyre. Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, chief of the presidential office Hasan Kamil, Chief Chamberlain Nawar Taymur and acting aide de camp Brig Hasan 'Allam.

AL-KARIM RETURNS FROM KUWAIT, DISCUSSES BOYCOTT

JN180954 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 April--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned here last night after participating in the fifth extraordinary ministerial conference of OAPEC which concluded its work in Kuwait yesterday. The conference decided to suspend Egypt's membership in OAPEC and in the joint Arab companies affiliated with it. The conference also decided to impose a complete boycott on the Egyptian regime regarding the activities of these companies.

'Abd al-Karim said in a press statement after his arrival that the OAPEC Ministerial Council also decided to take immediate measures in all OAPEC member states to prevent Arab oil, oil byproducts and gas from arriving in Egypt either directly or indirectly. 'Abd al-Karim noted that these decisions correspond fully to the resolutions of the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference and that the Iraqi delegation was eager to have these decisions implemented unconditionally and without hesitation.

'Abd al-Karim concluded that Arab unanimity within OAPEC is an Arab victory against the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat plot.

DELEGATE CALLS FOR EXPULSION OF EGYPT FROM AAPSO

JN171722 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Iraq has called for the expulsion of the As-Sadat regime from the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO]. Iraq also called for transferring the AAPSO headquarters from Egypt to another country. In addition, Iraq reiterated its absolute support for the South African people's struggle against apartheid, imperialism and the racist regimes, in harmony with the principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the 17 July revolution.

This came in the party speech delivered by comrade 'Abd al-Fattah Amin at the world conference for solidarity with the peoples in South Africa, which was held in Lusaka 11-15 April.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES PDRY PLANNING MINISTER

JN171953 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 April--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn received PDRY Planning Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali here this evening. During the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali and the PDRY charge d'affaires in Baghdad, a discussion was held on relations between the two fraternal countries and the current Arab situation.

CULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOVIETS

JN151824 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 15 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, (INA)--Iraq and the Soviet Union signed their 1979-80 plan on cultural and scientific cooperation here today.

The plan, signed for Iraq by Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Mr 'Abd Al'Jabbar Majid and for the Soviet Union by the Soviet ambassador to Baghdad, provides for enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of sciences and exchange of professors, researchers and experts, scientific periodicals and publications in various scientific and literary fields.

The plan also calls for strengthening cooperation between Iraq and Soviet universities, exchange of publications and cultural films as well as information materials with the aim of introducing the achievements won by the two countries.

The signing of the plan comes in implementation of the cultural cooperation agreement between Iraq and the Soviet Union signed in 1959.

CONTRACTS TO BUILD OIL DEPOTS SIGNED WITH CEMA

JN171701 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, (INA)--Iraq and the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) today signed two contracts providing for building two depots for oil by-products in Karkh and (?Rasafah) within a period of 30 months.

After their completion, the two depots will render storage capacity enough to meet all requirements of the country's central area of oil by-products.

The two depots which will be connected to the by-products pipeline between Baghdad and Basrah will comprise numerous utilities for services, administration, railways and communications.

The state organization for oil projects will supervise designs and their implementation and purchase of equipment as well as completion of civil engineering work.

YOUTH, SPORTS COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH JORDAN

JN181024 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 April--Iraq and Jordan have signed a protocol for cooperation in sports and youth. Youth Minister Karim Mahmud Husayn said on his return here from Amman last night that according to the protocol, Iraq and Jordan will exchange sports delegations and embark on joint work among the youth institutions in the two countries to exchange expertise. They will also coordinate their activities at Arab and international youth meetings to expose and confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the gains and aspirations of the Arab people.

HAMMUDI MEETS BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

JN161357 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 April--Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi met here today with a Belgian parliamentary delegation currently visiting Iraq.

The minister explained Iraq's domestic and foreign policy, the Baghdad summit resolutions and those of the Arab foreign and economy ministers for confronting the capitulatory treaty between traitor As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy.

The minister urged the delegation not to believe the imperialist media, which are trying to distort facts, speak lies and distort the steadfastness of the Arab people regarding the capitulatory treaty and its signatories.

The minister asserted to the delegation that the treasonous treaty is a transient event and is doomed to failure because the Arab nation rejects it, believing only in the liberation of the usurped land and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to determine their future.

FRENCH AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN162103 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 April--Jacques Fouchier, French secretary of state for agriculture, arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a 5-day visit to Iraq.

In a press statement, Fouchier said that he and officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform will discuss ways to strengthen the relations between the two friendly countries in the field of agriculture. He added that such visits among Iraqi and French officials are bound to strengthen their relations in the service of the two peoples' interests.

Trade Cooperation Discussed

JN181028 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 April--Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and minister of trade, met here today with French Secretary of State for Agriculture Jacques Fouchier and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they discussed prospects for cooperation between establishments of the Iraqi public sector and French establishments. Agreement was reached to exchange trade delegations to survey their markets so as to expand trade and to set up a fair for French industries in Baghdad in the second half of this year.

HUNGARIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN171524 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 April--Gyula Szeker, the Hungarian deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the Hungarian side to the joint Hungarian-Iraqi Economic and Technical Committee, arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Iraq. The Hungarian official will attend the meetings of the fifth session of the above-mentioned committee, at which various aspects of bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy and technology will be discussed and methods of further consolidating Iraqi-Hungarian relations reviewed.

HUSAYN INTERVIEWED IN VIENNA ON PLO, U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

AU171600 Vienna KURIER in German 15 Apr 79 p 2 AU

[Heinz Nussbaumer report on interview with Jordanian King Husayn in Vienna on 14 April 1979]

[Text] Despite his official embraces with PLO chief 'Arafat, Jordan's King Husayn has not the slightest intention of permitting the Palestinian guerrillas to return to the Jordan front with Israel.

In an interview with KURIER, the monarch declared emphatically on Saturday: "The mistakes of the past will not be repeated." Because of the Egyptian-Israeli peace pact, Husayn, recently on a skiing holiday on the Arlberg, has come into a completely new alliance with the more radical political forces in the Arab world: with Syria, Iraq and the PLO. Nevertheless, he is now unequivocally demarcating the limits of this solidarity.

With the PLO: "We will not permit conditions like those which in the past led to the catastrophe of 1972 (the Jordanian civil war). That is all I can tell you."

With Syria and Iraq: "All speculation that our old wish for Arab unity would now manifest itself in quick decisions are at least premature. Every step toward the great goal of unity must be taken with the right sense of proportion and without emotion, and it must be in line with the wishes of the people." Recent speculation that Jordan's neighbors--Syria and Iraq--would issue joint passports in the near future were unequivocally denied by the Hashemite king.

Husayn rejected as "absurd and ridiculous" reports about increasing tensions between the Jordanian and Palestinian parts of the population. And with regard to a cautious evacuation of American diplomats from Amman--this was reported by Lebanese newspapers on Friday--the monarch said that he "absolutely had not heard a thing about it."

At the same time, however, he charged leading Israeli politicians with seeking to solve the Palestinian problem at the expense of the Jordanian monarchy: In order to prevent a PLO state in the occupied West Bank region, politicians in Jerusalem were aiming at turning Jordan into a Palestinian state. In this context, Husayn said: "Many Israeli leaders are talking about this, but the most outspoken is (Minister of Agriculture and Sinai war hero General) Arik Sharon." Said the king with self-assurance: "Today Jordan is stable and strong, and capable of taking political action; its stability--compared with the tremendous political challenge--is virtually unparalleled."

The visitor to Austria did not hide his disappointment over the new American Middle East policy; after the events of the past few weeks and months America's role as a neutral director in the Middle East is finished, said the man who for decades has been regarded as America's most loyal ally in the Arab world. Husayn hastened to absolve himself of the suspicion that he himself is not willing to, or capable of, seeking peace. "There is no one in the Orient who has done more for peace than us. We have accepted all UN resolutions; we have gone to Geneva. But what is called peace today is something that we cannot, and do not, want to call peace." He himself, he added, is ready "to go into any arena where the Middle East peace is discussed," primarily to Geneva. His condition: All concerned must participate, including the Soviet Union. Geneva is important not as a place but as a political concept.

Speculations about fraternal strife with Crown Prince Hasan (who is regarded as a cautious advocate of American peace efforts) were rejected by Husayn with a smile: "Nothing could be farther from the truth. Hasan is a piece of myself."

AMMAN RADIO REPORTS ON KING HUSAYN'S TALKS IN MOROCCO

JN171243 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Text] An official Moroccan source in Rabat has declared that the talks held yesterday between His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco dealt with the latest developments of the Middle East situation. The sources said there was a total identity of viewpoints between Husayn and Hassan II concerning the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The talks also covered various aspects of mutual cooperation. His Majesty King Husayn and the Moroccan king praised the strong ties between the two fraternal countries.

KING HUSAYN RETURNS TO AMMAN 17 APRIL

JN171827 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur returned to Amman this evening following private visits of several days to the United Kingdom, Austria, Morocco and Spain.

AMMAN RADIO SCORES ISRAEL'S ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE ARABS

JN141816 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Apr 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Israeli foreign minister said yesterday that occupied Arab Jerusalem has nothing to do with the negotiations on autonomous administrative rule because it is not mentioned in the Camp David agreements.

Dayan's words are not new for us because we know--as do Egypt, the United States and Israel--that the final goal of the so-called autonomous administrative rule is to create acquiescence to the legitimacy of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The lack of any reference to the future of the Holy Arab city in the agreements and separate treaty as well as at the forthcoming negotiations is unequivocal proof of U.S. and Egyptian acquiescence to Israeli sovereignty over the holy city.

Although we are not discussing Jordan's stand toward the Camp David accords and the separate treaty, the new trend of trying to describe the Arab states--including Jordan--that reject those agreements and treaty as following a policy hostile to the United Staes and in the interests of the Soviet Union requires a long pause to learn the aim concealed behind this false trend. From the beginning Israel has been seeking to internationalize the Palestinian cause so as to take advantage of the big powers' game of struggling for their interests and for serving their expansionist ambitions in the Arab world.

Today Israel has achieved two prominent successes: isolating Egypt and freezing its role in the dispute, and using the slogan of resisting Soviet influence to drag the United States to its side.

Israel has done this to achieve Zionist ambitions in the Middle East. Israel aims at dividing the Arabs into two camps: one with the United States and another with the Soviet Union. In this way it will achieve its expansionist dreams at a time when it cannot be said that those Arabs who reject the Camp David policy are necessarily followers of Soviet policy.

Therefore, all Arab states are required to affirm their Arab identify and Arab affiliation and to build the inherent strength capable of foiling the difficult formula Israel is trying to pass on the Arab world. This must be done before it is too late. The most serious danger facing the Arabs at this stage is being pushed in one way or another in the direction of the embarrassing corner chosen by the Camp David strategy for the Arab states which reject this strategy. The aim of this strategy is to divide the Arabs into Eastern and Western camps.

To face this serious challenge the Arabs should work out an Arab strategy that has clearly defined aims and is based on the inherent strength capable of choosing alternatives and dealing with them. The required strategy must take into consideration the Eastern and Western blocs' struggle for their interests in the Middle East so that these interests will become a winning card in the hands of the Arabs to test the sincerity of the intentions of the East and West alike toward the Arab cause and the future of the Arab existence.

The common Arab cause will be the primary cause. All Arab states should fulfill their commitments to this cause free from outside influences so that the unified Arab will can decide its destiny.

AR-RA'Y ATTACKS ISRAELI, LEBANESE, KUWAITI PRESS

JN180815 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Other Tripartite Alliance," the newspaper AR-RA'Y comments one of the regrettable phenomena in the Arab world is that after the success of the Tripartite alliance in peddling the separate treaty, another tripartite alliance among the Israeli, Lebanese and Kuwaiti press has appeared. The sole aim on this alliance is to distort the stands of Jordan by portraying conditions in Jordan in the worst possible manner at a time when the situation in Jordan contradicts all the lies made by the Lebanese, Kuwaiti and Israeli press.

AR-RA'Y adds: We can understand why the Israeli press would wage one campaign after another in solidarity with the stand of the occupation authorities and in support of the official Zionist infomration media. However, to see papers from Lebanon and Kuwait dragged into this current, which is hostile to Jordan's pan-Arab stands, is something for which we cannot find a logical or reasonable explanation except for two interpretations: First, these papers are in alliance with the tripartite Camp David alliance--and we cannot exclude this because of the peculiar similarity in the timing of unleashing the blatant campaigns against the Jordanian stands; or second, these papers have been recruited to serve another objective--on the Lebanese level, to transfer the Lebanese burden to Jordan, and on the Kuwaiti level, to keep this burden away from Kuwait by throwing it back to Jordan. The problem with the Kuwaiti and Lebanese press is that, like the states of the tripartite alliance, it has failed to understand that by its pan-Arab stands, Jordan is not looking for any gains at the expense of the Palestine issue.

AR-RA'Y continues: The Jordanian people, regime and state continue to maintain their stand which was declared when the Palestinian problem began. Jordan will continue to maintain this stand until Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab areas and recognizes the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Jordan does not find it strange that such a stand does not please the tripartite Camp David alliance. However, to see another tripartite alliance similar to that of Camp David is something we do not like to see. We are not afraid of the consequences of such an alliance because the efforts of this alliance will backfire since Jordan is greater than the lies of the Israeli, Lebanese and Kuwaiti press. These papers should finally realize that their lies have been exposed and no one will believe them.

JNA REPORTS ON COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS IN SHALE USE

JN171030 Amman JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 April--A Soviet delegation yesterday concluded talks with a number of Jordanian officials on cooperation between the two countries in the use of oil shale in Jordan. The planning director in the electricity authority, Dr Ibrahim Badran, said that the two sides found encouraging indications of the possibility of exploiting oil shale in Jordan. Jordanian shale is of acceptable quality for use as fuel or for the extraction of oil. This was learned from visits and experiments carried out by the two sides in the areas of Al-Lajjun and Al-Qatranan in southern Jordan.

YUGOSLAV FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL ARRIVES

JN141252 Amman JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 14 April--Ranko Vilus, chief of the office of protocol in the Yugoslav Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Amman yesterday on a 5-day visit at the invitation of the Jordanian Government. Mr Vilus will meet with several Foreign Ministry officials.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PRAGUE

JN131236 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni left Amman for Prague this morning at the head of a parliamentary delegation to participate in the spring session of the International Parliamentary Union, which will begin its meetings where next Monday.

IRAQI YOUTH MINISTER LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD

JN172115 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Iraqi Youth Minister Karim Husayn Mahmud left Amman this evening for Baghdad following a 4-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran. He also held talks with Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, minister of culture and youth, on ways of consolidating the bilateral relations in the fields of sports and youth. The Iraqi minister expressed his pleasure at visiting Jordan and his appreciation of the talks he held with the minister of culture and youth.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS LEAVES BEIRUT FOR DAMASCUS

NC180820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Apr 79 NC

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left Beirut for Damascus this morning on a 1-day visit. He will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior officials to discuss developments in Lebanon and the region.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH 17 APR

JN171158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 April--According to security reports from southern Lebanon, large numbers of Zionist enemy vehicles have crossed over the border into southern Lebanon during the past 2 days. According to these reports, some 15 Zionist troop carriers entered Marwahin, then spread on to the hills overlooking the nearby villages of Yarin and Az-Zahirah.

The reports say that other vehicles and halftracks crossed at the border village of Yarin and took up positions on the approaches of the town of Bint Jubayl, closing the main road leading to the area. The reports also say that other vehicles crossed the border at kilometer 9, east of 'Aytarun, and took up positions at the Blida-'Aytarun junction; still other vehicles moved in the direction of 'Aytarun village and Marun Ar-ras. Many of the vehicles bear the marking "the Lebanese Forces," the name used by the rightist militias under Sa'd Haddad.

The reports also speak about great tension in the border area following the Lebanese Government's announcement that army units will be sent to the south in the areas controlled by UN forces. The rightist militas, placed on alert, are waging a large-scale campaign in their areas against the entry of the Lebanese army units.

BEIRUT REPORTS REGULAR FORCES MOVE SOUTH, REACH SIDON

NC171526 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The first stage of moving a Lebanese Army battalion into southern Lebanon was completed at 1600 today. The battalion, which started from the Defense Ministry building in Al-Yarzi, consists of 500 officers and men and includes a platoon of armored vechiles and mortar. The battalion will stay in Sidon until tomorrow morning.

AL-HUSS VISITS ARMY BATTALION IN SIDON, MAKES STATEMENT

NC171948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] At 1630 today, Prime Minister Dr Salim Al-Huss arrived at As-Salihiyah, where the army battalion has gathered in its move to the south. He met with Lieutenant Colonel 'Abbas, Major Eidlini, Battalion Commander Major al-Milli and senior officers of the southern command. The prime minister inspected the troops, shook their hands and wished them success in their task.

The prime minister made the following statement afterward: The purpose of my visit is to inspect the forces. This is a blessed step that shows the adherence of the Lebanese citizen to his land, sovereignty and dignity.

All Lebanese are following the progress of these valiant soldiers with their hearts, minds and consciences. Our hopes are pinned on them; our attention is focused on them. Let us hope that this step will mark the beginning of a new era in Lebanon. May God realize Lebanon's hope through these brave men.

The prime minister then had a meeting with the governor of the south, Halim Fayyad, during which they discussed the situation of the battalion.

MAJOR HADDAD TO ANNOUNCE INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH

NC172016 Paris AFP in English 2010 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Metulla (Israel), April 17 (AFP)--Maj Sa'd Haddad, leader of the Lebanese conservative militia, said here tonight he will announce tomorrow the "independence" of south Lebanon.

Maj Haddad told AFP the decision had been agreed upon in principle in Marj'uyun a week ago by representatives of all the towns and villages in the Christian enclave.

He himself had chosen tomorrow (Wednesday) as the date when they would oppose the "seizure of the enclave by the illegal government in Beirut", he said.

He and his troops would oppose the deployment planned for tomorrow of a battalion of Lebanese regulars in a neighboring zone controlled by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), he added. The Christian militia would not, however, shell U.S. positions, he said.

Major Haddad maintained that the Lebanese Army, "if it really exists", should first of all take over from Syrian troops and Palestinian guerrillas in Beirut itself.

"We are prepared to resist alone. We feel abandoned by the whole world but our determination has not slackened. We have struggled for three years and ours is the only free and independent zone in all Lebanon", he said.

Major Haddad contested Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis' authority.

Mr Sarkis "was nominated by the Syrians who forced members of parliament to elect him to help them realise their plan of annexing Lebanon," he alleged. He also criticised the U.S. resolution which maintained U.S. troops in southern Lebanon to help the Beirut government restore its authority over the area.

"This resolution was requested by an illegitimate regime," Major Haddad said. He was asked about the position of Israel, which has frequently backed the militia, but does not seem to oppose the plan to move in Lebanese regulars. Major Haddad answered this by saying, "Israel has no influence over us. Only our own unshakable will counts." Newsmen first saw him here at 5 pm today (1500 GMT) as he was boarding an Israeli military helicopter for an unknown destination. He returned at about 8 pm but refused to meet newsmen.

He finally spoke to them at about 10 pm as he came out of the headquarters of the Israeli Army liaison mission with UNIFIL.

ISRAELI ARTILLERY SHELLING OF SOUTH REPORTED

NC172117 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Apr 79 NC

[Text] According to reports from the south, Israeli heavy artillery shelled the areas of Kafr Tibnit and Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon for several hours this evening. It has been stated that the shelling, which began this afternoon, was continuing into the evening.

This morning, the Israeli artillery's shelling of Tyre and An-Nabatiyah resulted in several casualties. Tyre was subjected to intensive shelling for the third consecutive day.

LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION ARRIVES IN TYRE AREA

NC180741 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The Lebanese army unit is at the moment entering the area of operations of the UN forces on the second leg of its entry into southern Lebanon to discharge its national duty to restore the state's authority and legality to this area.

The Lebanese battalion set out this morning from the municipal stadium in Sidon, where it camped during the night. It crossed the Al-Qasimiyah and Burj Rahhal areas until it reached the Tyre area, which is the beginning of the area of UN forces' operations. It then moved toward the areas allocated to it in the first stage of deployment amid a great popular welcome manifested in the emotional reception of the citizens, who threw roses and rice on the soldiers, and amid the spontaneous trilling of women.

Commenting on the entry of the army into the south, Prime Minister Dr Salim Al-Huss said: The hour the Lebanese Army entered the south was an historic and blessed hour. It entered loftily and proudly to discharge a big national duty in a step to be followed by other steps that will fully restore the south, God willing, under the shadow of sovereignty and legality in cooperation with the United Nations and the UN forces. The land of the south is our land and the issue of the south is our issue. We will not relinquish our land and issue, no matter how harsh the circumstances and regardless of the obstacles. We are duty-bound to mention with gratitude and thanks the courageous and effective role played by the UN Secretariat General and the UN forces command in the south in helping us to overcome the obstacles and to secure the success of this step, on which we are pinning great hope.

SHELLING OBSTRUCTS LEBANESE ARMY DEPLOYMENT 18 APR

NC181025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The Srifa-Dirdghayya Road, Wadi Jily, Bra'shit and the areas of Al-Buss and Ar-Rashidiyah came under violent artillery shelling as of 0900 today.

It is known that the town of Dirdghayya has been designated command headquarters of the Lebanese Army battalion.

Accordingly, the deployment of Lebanese Army forces in the locations assigned to them was stopped and the soldiers took up defensive positions within the operations area of UN forces as a precaution against the shelling.

Battalion Takes Up Positions

NC181124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Apr 79 NC

[Text] At 1200 today, the Lebanese Army battalion took up its assigned positions while still being subjected to intensive Israeli artillery shelling.

The Lebanese battalion continued its advance and deployment in the area of operations of the UN emergency forces despite the intensive shelling that began at 0900 upon its arrival in Dayr Qanun An-Nahr, where 14 155-mm shells were fired at the battalion. There were no casualties among the battalionor or inhabitants.

At 1115 various units took up their positions in Ma'rakah, Ash-Shihabiyah and Tibnin. At 1130, Tibnin, Haris and Ma'rakah were subjected to intensive artillery fire. There were no casualties.

LATE REPORT: BEIRUT REPORTS HADDAD 'SECESSION'

NC181647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The border Israeli agent groups today exposed the actual objectives they were seeking to achieve in south Lebanon. Sa'd Haddad, the leader of these groups, has declared his secession from Lebanon in an entity supported by Israel, which he calls "Free Lebanon." Haddad and his militiamen have persisted in rejecting the legitimate regime in Lebanon. He has disgracefully foresaken all his links with Lebanon in order to be Israel's lackey and the hand behind which Israel hides.

Haddad's statement coincided with the Lebanese Army entry into the south to perform its national duty in restoring authority and legitimacy in south Lebanon in cooperation with the UN Emergency Forces. Haddad's statement is the last arrow in the plotters' bag before the state's authority and its legitimacy subdues them.

BA'TH PARTY HOLDS RALLY ON 33d EVACUATION DAY ANNIVERSARY

JN172032 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpts] President Hafiz Al-Asad participated in the rally held by the Damascus University branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Damascus University auditorium this evening on the 33d anniversary of Evacuation Day.

Attending the meeting were comrade members of the Ba'th Party national and regional commands, National Progressive Front Central Command members, the ministers, the comrade secretaries and members of the Ba'th Party branches in Damascus, Al-Qunaytirah and Palestine, the brother heads and member of the executive bureaus of the popular organizations and vocational unions, the university deans and professors, the head and members of the veterans' association and a large crowd of citizens.

The rally began with observance of 1-minute's silence in honor of the souls of the Arab nation's martyrs. The revolution youth band then played the Syrian anthem.

Comrade Ahmad Diyab, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, delivered the Ba'th Party speech, in which he praised this remembrance and its meanings. He also greeted our heroic martyrs, who were sacrificed along the path to freedom and independence. He said that we are following the path to achieve their objectives under the comrade secretary general of the party, confident of victory.

Comrade Diyab affirmed that our country, which has always stood in the face of plots and colonialist alliances, stands today united and strong to defend the Arab nation's dignity. He added that our country was, and is still, at a peak in the nation's struggle and confrontation, aware of the price, and honored to preserve a pioneering position in the Arab homeland.

Comrade Diyab said: Our country, under the leadership of our party headed by the secretary general, has confronted the imperialist alliance and has called on all the Arab masses and governments to shoulder their responsibility to condemn and reject the treaty of treason and all its repercussions. He also said: The party worked through the steadfastness front and the Baghdad summit to make everyone shoulder their responsibilities, because struggle with the enemy is a struggle of existence, in which there are no neutral or middle stands. He said there is no middle ground between agentry and Arab commitment. He affirmed that within this framework came the steps of coordination and unification with fraternal Iraq, as well as work to consolidate cohesion among the Palestinian revolution groups to achieve their unity. There also came moves on the world level to strengthen relations with the front of friends and to expose the dangers of the imperialist-American-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance.

In conclusion, the party's speaker pledged to leader comrade Hafiz Al-Asad to continue the struggle until our aims of unity, freedom and socialism are achieved.

INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

JN141904 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 14 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 14 April--The Syrian Arab Republic and Romania signed a protocol for industrial cooperation between the two countries at the Industry Ministry this afternoon. Syrian Industry Minister Shutaywi Sayfu signed the protocol for Syria, and Romanian Minister of Machine Building Industry Ioan Avram signed for Romania.

According to the protocol, Romania will complete the construction of the cement plant in Ash-Shaykh Sa'id in Aleppo with a daily output of 3,000 tons. Romania will also complete the phosphates plant in Homs with an annual output of 450,000 tons.

The SANA correspondent reports that the two plants are expected to begin operations next July.

The Romanian minister and the delegation accompanying him are expected to leave Damascus for Bucharest at noon tomorrow.

EDUCATION MINISTER MASHARIQAH LEAVES FOR GDR

JN180918 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 18 April--Education Minister Zuhayr Mashariqah left Damascus for the GDR early this morning at the head of a delegation to participate in the symposium [words indistinct] which will be held there 19-26 April.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the education minister and the delegation accompanying him will leave the GDR for Prague on 26 April for negotiations on the executive program of the cultural agreement which Syria and Czechoslovakia intend to conclude for 1979-81 in implementation of the cultural cooperation agreement previously signed in Prague. The program includes cooperation in the fields of education, higher education, science, culture, arts and information.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BENDJEDID MEETS WITH UNION LEADERS

LD180004 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, received this morning at the presidential headquarters members of the National Secretariat of the General Union of Algerian Workers. The meeting was attended by Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Political Bureau and party coordinator and (Talibi Hasnawi), member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Liaison Department (?of the party organizations).

At the meeting, frank and fruitful discussions took place concerning a number of issues which are of particular interest to the workers and the citizens in general. They include issues of production and productivity, emigration, (?industrialization), social services and housing in particular.

The president of the republic was clear and frank in his comments on the subjects discussed at this meeting. In particular, he said that fruitful dialog does not mean that every one of us says his view and the matter rests there, but it means that we debate objectively the issues that interest us in order to arrive at a joint conviction that leads us to harmonious action wherever our activity lies.

The president voiced the conviction that the workers are aware of the nature of the challenge we are facing in bringing the country out of the state of underdevelopment. This challenge requires us to double and concert our efforts and coordinate our work. He said that weakness of production in any section or stoppage of work in a section can only be looked upon as evidence that the workers in that section have not yet fully realized their role in the socialist society whose destiny is in the hands of the workers in the broad sense. This can also be a weapon in the hands of counterrevolutionary elements trying to fish in troubled waters or who might be afraid that the hand of the revolution may reach them to try and punish them and therefore are working to create problems or complicate them.

Afterward, the president invited the party coordinator Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, to speak. Yahiaoui said that the directives of the president both in his address to the nation and his instructions at the meetings of the Council of Ministers are clear. He said that this meeting affirms the will of the president of the republic and his sincere wish to hold a constructive dialog. Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui said: We are about to complete the formation of the party infrastructures which will be the natural field for dialog as far as the strugglers are concerned. There are issues which will be solved at the level of the Liaison Department of the party organizations.

The president of the republic concluded the meeting, which went on for about 2 hours, by saying: We have to evaluate our actions in all fields, and we must have a comprehensive outlook when we tackle various issues. We must make out of the national charter a guide for action in all fields so that we may be able to achieve the all-embracing and harmonious development which meets the needs of the masses, takes into consideration the priorities and places everything in its proper place.

FOREIGN MINISTER BENYAHIA LEAVES FOR YUGOSLAVIA 16 APR

LD162136 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 16 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Mr Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, the minister of foreign affairs, has left Algiers for Belgrade as President Chadli Benjedid's special envoy. Mr Benyahia is the bearer of a message from President Chadli for President Tito.

LIBYA

ANGOLAN DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER DEPARTS 16 APR

LD161042 Tripoli JANA in English 0928 GMT 16 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 16 April, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Angolan deputy defence minister and executive committee member of the Angolan MPLA Party, Mr. Juliao Mateus, left Tripoli yesterday afternoon concluding a three-day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Present at Mr. Mateus' send-off (?were) [words indistinct] representatives from the armed forces command and the Foreign Secretariat's Protocol Department.

MAURITANIA

BOUCEIF: QUEST FOR PEACE NOT TO HARM TIES WITH MOROCCO

LD180845 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Apr 79 p 3 LD

[Pierre Biarnes 12 April interview in Nouakchott with new Mauritanian Prime Minister Lt Col Ahmed Ould Bouceif: "The Result of the Search for Peace Cannot Be To Question Our Alliance With Morocco"]

[Excerpt] [Question] Following the changes which have taken place in the Mauritanian leadership, can you tell us, Mr Prime Minister, whether your country is going to modify its policy in the Saharan crisis?

[Answer] Mauritania is continuing and will continue to search above all for peace, for itself and for all the countries in the region involved in the conflict.

The United Nations has passed two resolutions regarding the future of the former Spanish Sarahan colony. One entrusted administration of this territory to Morocco and Mauritania. The other advocates a self-determination referendum for its populations. Up until 10 July last year Mauritania had implemented the first of these two resolutions but had completely neglected the second. Since then, while continuing to administer Tiris-El-Gharbia until such time as a permanent solution is found, it has placed more emphasis on the search for ways and means to organize consultation of the populations concerned.

We are more intent than ever on continuing on this latter course. We will therefore continue to have talks with the POLISARIO leaders. Also, we still hope to resume normal diplomatic relations with Algeria, which supports these leaders, because that would make it much easier to find a peaceful solution.

However--and this is an important difference compared with the behavior of the team which we have just replaced--this search for peace cannot, it must be realized, lead us to call into question our alliance with Morocco, which wants peace as well.

Meeting with Moroccan Leaders

[Question] Do you intend to have a meeting with Morocco's leaders soon?

[Answer] Certainly, and I will do so as soon as our new institutions are established and I am able to leave Nouakchott. I also hope to have meetings very soon with the leaders of other countries friendly with Mauritania, the French and the Saudis in particular, as I did recently with the Senegalese, and, if they want, with the Algerian leaders themselves, whom I have already informed of this fact moreover.

[Question] Do you expect to resort to French military assistance for much longer?

[Answer] Yes, for as long as necessary, and I do not rule out the possibility of asking for it to be increased if need be. But I hope most sincerely that soon it will no longer be necessary at all.

[Question] Recently the Senegalese leaders expressed their fears that alienation of Mauritania's Negro-African populations will result in destabilization of your country. What is your opinion on this subject?

[Answer] We had great pleasure in welcoming President Senghor on Monday. We know that he left Nouakchott reassured and confident about the future of our relations, which are still very close because they are based on important common interests and on very long-standing friendship. President Senghor, who is one of the wise men of Africa, proposed to help us, as he has always done in the past. But he took great care not to meddle in our domestic problems.

Return to the Franc Area

[Question] Mauritania's financial situation appears to be as unsatisfactory today as it was on 10 July. What do you intend to do to redress the situation. Above all, do you envisage rejoining the Franc area in one form or another?

[Answer] It would seem, indeed, that you are right. But, because of the current state of the records in my possession, it is difficult for me to be more precise. As for a possible rapparochement between Mauritania and the Franc area, we do not dismiss the idea out of hand. But it is still too soon for us to make a decision.

[Question] Do you intend to release former president Mokhtar Ould Daddah in the fairly near future?

[Answer] Our team is in no sense the spiritual heir of the one which overthrew President Ould Daddah on 10 July last year. For my part, I was not involved in this event either directly or indirectly. We are going to examine the future of the former head of state. He had been in power too long, he was tired and he made mistakes. But he also did a great many positive things for Mauritania. It would not be fair not to recognize this fact and to exonerate him as some people have sometimes done in recent months.

[Question] Do you think that the two-man executive which has just been instituted by the new constitutional charter can be maintained for long?

[Answer] The formula on which we have decided is indeed rather unusual in Africa where the head of state normally holds the most important elements of executive power. Nevertheless, we prefer to retain it for the time being in our case and we will see in practice whether or not it needs to be modified. It was the Military Council for National Salavation which drafted the charter and it can still revise it if need be.

MORROCCO

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR TALKS IN MAURITANIA

LD181408 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Rabat--M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, left Rabat this morning for Nouakchott. During his stay in the Mauritanian capital Boucetta is to hold talks with Mauritanian Prime Minister Lt Col Ahmed Ould Bouceif about relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening them.

JORDAN'S HUSAYN LEAVES AFTER TALKS WITH HASSAN

LD162058 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Apr 79 LD

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan left Morocco this afternoon. He was seen off at Sale Airport by Maata Bouabid, prime minister and justice minister; Dey Ould Sisi Baba, president of the Chamber of Deputies; M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Interior Minister Driss Basri; Minister of Transportation Mohamed Nasser; Gen Driss Bin Isa, inspector general of the Royal Armed Forces; Col Mohamed Kasim Bar, secretary general of the National Defense Administration; Jordanian Ambassador to Morocco Hani Tabbarah; Moroccan Ambassador to Jordan Mohamed el-Gharbi; and governor of Rabat and Sale Omar Bin Shamsi. An honor guard of the Light Security Brigade was mounted at the airport runway.

It is known that His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan paid a 24-hour private visit to Rabat Sunday and Monday 15-16 April. During the visit, the Jordanian monarch had two private meetings with His Majesty King Hassan II Sunday and Monday. The second meeting at the royal office lasted for more than 2 hours.

The first thing the two monarchs reviewed during these talks was the issues which are of interest to both countries within the framework of their relations. They noted that their countries have concluded agreements in several important spheres which are apt to guarantee the continuation of Moroccan-Jordanian relations at an exemplary level. Six Moroccan-Jordanian agreements will be submitted to the Moroccan Chamber of Deputies at its current session for ratification. These agreements concern tourism, trade exchanges, merchant marine, economic and technical cooperation, cultural and labor cooperation, and the organization of air transport between the two countries.

After reviewing relations between their fraternal countries and planning the future prospects of these relations, the two monarchs expressed their satisfaction with the strong nature of these relations.

They reaffirmed their desire to push these relations toward a stronger cooperation.

The two monarchs then discussed the current situation in the Middle East from its various aspects and in all its details, particularly following the Washington-Egyptian-Israeli treaty, and in light of the resolutions adopted by the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference which was held in Baghdad in the wake of the conclusion of this treaty.

Despite the many problems in this region of the world and despite the various reactions to these problems, the two monarchs noted a total identity in their views depending on their own conclusions. They decided to continue their close contact so that they can both follow all the likely developments in this situation in the future.

CUBAN MINISTER ARRIVES WITH CASTRO INVITATION

LD172344 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 17 (MAP)--Antonio Esquivel, Cuban minister of chemical industry, heading an important delegation, arrived here Monday.

The Cuban minister declared that his visit to Morocco enters within the framework of the mission he was entrusted with by the Cuban president, Fidel Castro, to deliver to King Hassan of Morocco the invitation to attend the non-aligned summit conference which will be held next September in Havana.

Esquivel equally stated that his visit would be an occasion to hold talks with Moroccan officials in the field of industry.

PRIME MINISTER SEES ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT OFF

LD161430 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Apr 79 LD

[Excerpts] President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire left Sale Airport this morning. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister and Justice Minister Mr. Maata Bouabid, Dey Ould Sidi Baba, spokesman of the National Assembly, and Minister of the Interior Driss Basri.

President Mobutu's visit to our country was marked by the talks he held with his majesty the king during a private dinner banquet given by his majesty in honor of the Zairian president.

SECURITY FORCES SEIZE CONTRABAND WEAPONS

JN161507 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 16 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 16 April--As a result of the intensive search operation concerning the arms trafficking revealed by recent investigations, the security forces have been able to seize a quantity of arms in the (Kalhut) region, about 9 km northwest of Kassala, in eastern Sudan.

SUNA has learned that the security forces seized 26 G3 rifles, 19 Kalashnikovs, 7 Sterling guns and some ammunition for these weapons.

A number of arms merchants were arrested and are being interrogated. The security forces were instructed to intensify the search operations and to arrest those who participate in such unlawful activities anywhere in Sudan.

NUMAYRI SENDS CONDOLENCE TO YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT

JN181455 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 18 April--President Numayri has sent a cable of condolences to Josip Broz Tito, president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, expressing sorrow over the disaster caused by the earthquake that hit Yugoslavia.

TUNISIA

CANDIDATE FOR ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL NOMINATED

JN180819 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 18 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Tunis, 18 April--The Arab League's General Secretariat has officially notified the Arab League member states, with the exception of Egypt, of the Tunisian Government's decision to nominate Tunisian Information Minister Chedli Klibi to the post of Arab League secretary general.

The Tunisian candidate is 53 years old and is a member of the Politburo of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party and of the Arab language synod. He has written several political and cultural books.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CSSR FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

For Prague RUDE PRAVO coverage of the communique issued on 14 April on the visit to Tunisia by CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, see the 18 April issue of the GDR section of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

CABINET MAKES DECISION ON LEBANESE DEPLOYMENT

TA171901 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 17 Apr 79 TA

[Text] The ministerial consultations on the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon lasted more than 3 hours and took place in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. The Cabinet determined a line, south of the Litani River, along which the Lebanese Army could deploy, but not south of it.

Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram says that in the last few days there have been repeated U.S. administration appeals, as well as appeals from the European countries supporting the UN Emergency Force.

This afternoon, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman met with Major Haddad to clarify Israel's resolution concerning the movement of the Lebanese battalion. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir has learned that Israel will not object to the stationing of five platoons near the five UNIFIL battalion headquarters. The deployment of the platoons will not be south of the Litani River and north of the enclave strip.

The Lebanese battalion's headquarters will be located north of that line at the center of the region adjacent to the Litani.

Israel most strongly objects to the entry of the Lebanese battalion into the enclave strip itself and it will strengthen Major Haddad's forces in a way that would allow them to prevent such a move by the Lebanese battalion.

LEBANESE TROOPS ARRIVE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON 18 APR

TA180923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Apr 79 TA

[Text] Less than an hour ago it was reported from Beirut that the Lebanese Army battalion entered the area under UN control in southern Lebanon at 0845 this morning. The battalion is composed of 500 soldiers.

The commander of the Christian militias in southern Lebanon, Sa'd Haddad, has instructed his personnel to cease firing at the regular Lebanese Army battalion and not to disturb its deployment in the area intended for it.

Our correspondent Yehezq'el HaMe'iri has learned that the militia commanders have been promised that the Lebanese battalion's troops will not be sited in the enclave areas and will only be positioned in the area under the control of the UN emergency force. Several of Major Haddad's commanders were opposed to this and he needed an explanatory campaign for them to accept the arrangement. However, the militia forces are still deployed in their positions from fear that the Lebanese Army troops will try to move out of the area allocated them. All the roads to the enclave are still blocked.

Last night Major Haddad declared to correspondents [illegible], following the appearance of the Lebanese battalion in the south, he may declare the enclave to be an independent zone to be called Free Lebanon.

EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI OIL MINISTERS MEET, OPTIMISTIC

TA171027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Apr 79 TA

[Text] The Egyptian petroleum minister said upon his arrival for a meeting with his Israeli counterpart in Abu Rudays that Egypt will fulfill its commitments as stipulated in the peace treaty.

He explained that after the normalization of relations between the two countries has been achieved, Egypt will allow Israeli companies to compete in tenders for oil in the Sinai under the same terms as other companies. He foresees easy and smooth negotiations.

The Israeli energy minister said that he, too, does not foresee any problems on the issue of oil and pointed out that there is a friendly atmosphere in the talks. Both ministers spoke to our correspondent, Yosi Melman, a short time before the beginning of the talks.

Further Details of Meeting

TA171531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Apr 79 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Israeli Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Egyptian Petroleum Minister Dr Hilal are now summarizing today's debates on the transfer of the oil fields to Egypt. This morning, Israel and Egypt agreed on the creation of two committees of experts which will discuss the arrangements for the transfer of the 'Alma field in At-Tur to the Egyptians. This issue was finalized at the end of a short meeting in Egyptian territory in Abu Rudays. Afterwards, the Egyptian delegation toured the Israeli drilling installations in 'Alma and received explanations on the operation of the field. Our correspondent Yosi Melman is accompanying Minister Moda'i and he sends this report:

[Melman--Begin recording] At precisely 0835 we landed at the small airfield of Abu Rudays: No flags, no blare of trumpets, but handshakes between Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and the representatives of the Israeli delegation and the Egyptian Petroleum Minister Dr Hilal and members of his delegation--Several polite words and then they went to a nearby building for the first working talk.

Everything was done without any protocol or formality. It is all plain business. The problems connected with the transfer of the 'Alma field in At-Tur to the Egyptians in 7 months were explained. These problems include, among other things: Will Egypt purchase Israel's drilling eqipment, equipment which is valued at some $40 million? How will Egypt supply oil to Israel after the 'Alma field is returned?

Moda'i Hilal Statements

TA171542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Apr 79 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Our correspondent Yosi Melman accompanied the Israeli and Egypitan oil ministers and asked them some questions. First, the interview with the Egyptian petroleum minister, Dr Ahmad 'Izz Ad-Din Hasan Hilal. [Questions and answers in English--Begin recording]

[Question] Mr Minister, what are the main oil problems between Israel and Egypt?

[Answer] We don't have any problems. [Laughter] We are here really to discuss things about oil, the takeover, according to the treaty. The minister was kind to come here to show us the facilities. After that, we'll agree about the procedures we will carry out so that we can finalize the things smoothly.

[Question] Will Eqypt fulfill its obligations according to the peace treaty to supply oil from 'Alma to Israel, after Israel gives up the oil field?

[Answer] We don't say this; we say: Egypt will fulfill all its obligations according to the treaty.

[Question] And what about the obligation to supply oil to Israel?

[Answer] No, if you see the treaty you will say that Egypt will treat the Israeli companies like all other companies after the normalization takes effect, which means that when we sell oil the Israeli companies will come in the tender and they are free--if they give the best price they can do it easily.

[Question] Mr Moda'i, are you satisfied from the first meeting with your colleagues?

[Answer] Very much so. We feel that we are very welcome here and we have met again with very nice people--his excellency, Minister Hilal and the people of the Egyptian National Oil Company--and we felt that it is going to be a very smooth and easy-going type of discussion. The friendliness is already here; the discussions will start shortly after we have shown our colleagues around the oilfield. On the whole, I must agree with Minister Hilal that I don't really see problems. I see issues that have to be resolved and have to be planned well, but no problems at all.

[Question] These problems--will they be resolved in the future?

[Answer] Well, whichever issues are involved in the peace treaty in general and in the oil field in particular--I do not see any difficulties. I know that both our nations, and both the leaders of the nations are 100 percent behind the peace treaty. They are going to implement it in a very generous and practical manner. [end recording]

BURG TO HEAD AUTONOMY TEAM ONLY WITH CABINET SUPPORT

TA171603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Apr 79 TA

[Text] Minister Burg, who has been appointed as the head of the ministerial team for the negotiations on autonomy, announced that he would only head that team if the Cabinet does not adopt principles that go against his views on the issue. Minister Burg made this statement to the Ministerial Committee for Autonomy Affairs and all the ministers accepted it without arguing.

Emerging from the ministerial consultations that took place this afternoon at the prime minister's office, Dr Burg said that Israel would determine its positions on autonomy before the negotiations start. The Cabinet secretary said that the first meeting between the negotiating teams will be in Beersheba and will be chaired by Minister Burg. The second meeting will be in Al-'Arish and will be chaired by the head of the Egyptian team. The dates of the meetings will be coordinated with Egypt after the two parties exchange the ratified peace documents.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the prime minister offered his deputy as a member of the ministerial committee, but that Yadin proposed that his colleague [from the Democratic Movement] Minister Tamir participate instead. He explained that he would like to deal with social and betterment issues in the near future.

Minister Nisim was added to the ministerial negotiating team at Minister Ehrlich's request.

TENSION INCREASES BETWEEN BEGIN, DAYAN

TA171114 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 79 p 1 TA

[By political correspondent 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The tension created between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan following the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt increased yesterday against the background of Dayan's statement on the future of the Golan Heights.

During the Knesset session yesterday, the prime minister asked that the foreign minister be summoned to the Knesset building. Dayan did not respond to the prime minister's request at once (because he was in the middle of a meeting with Senator Roth). The prime minister got very upset and vehemently asked Dayan to come to his office. The urgency in Begin's request stemmed from his desire that the foreign minister participate in a meeting (together with the defense minister) with Ambassador Lewis in which the issue of the U.S. approach to Israel regarding the passage of the Lebanese battalion into the enclave area in southern Lebanon was discussed.

Following repeated requests by the prime minister, Dayan arrived in the Knesset building and took part in the meeting with Lewis.

As far as is known, the prime minister yesterday expressed his anger and amazement at Dayan's utterances regarding the future of the Golan Heights. According to reactions voiced by circles close to the prime minister, it can be concluded that Begin is not ready to put up with the surprising statements on sensitive political issues made by the foreign minister every now and then without previous coordination with the prime minister. However, Begin has not made any remark to this effect to Dayan.

The atmosphere of anger created yesterday between Begin and Dayan came against the background of tension prevailing between them since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt. They did not agree on the procedures for the exchange of the ratification documents between Israel and Egypt because the prime minister set up the framework for this ceremony without consulting Dayan, thus putting him out of the picture. Also, they do not agree on the foreign ministry's role in the upcoming negotiations on autonomy. Against this background, Dayan rejected Begin's proposal to head the committee for negotiations with Egypt on autonomy.

DAYAN CRITIZED BY COALITION, OPPOSITION

TA171200 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 79 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yehudi Winkler]

[Excerpts] Both coalition and opposition parties have reacted with severe criticism to the remarks by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan concerning the status of the Golan Heights if and when negotiations with Syria open over the signing of a peace treaty. A position is being crystallized in the National Religious Party [NRP] to demand that the prime minister express reservations at once over the foreign minister's remarks.

MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir of the NRP told HA'ARETZ last night that the prime minister had erred in not reacting at once to the foreign minister's remarks. "It was Menahem Begin's minimal duty to call him to order."

"The fact that he did not do so definitely casts doubts in the hearts of many among those who contributed toward the founding of the present Cabinet and arouses the question as to what extent we will be able to continue to participate in this Cabinet.

"The foreign minister," MK Ben-Me'ir continued, "is distinguished by complete lack of sensitivity regarding peoples' fates. However, he must remember that he is not sitting in the Cabinet in his own right, but because hundreds of thousands of people supported this government at the polls, out of which 165,000 voted for the NRP. If the prime minister is not clever enough to control the superfluous chatter of various Cabinet ministers, not only that of Minister Dayan, he will with his own hands sign the death sentence of this government. It will not be able to exist in view of the disgraces we have recently been witnessing. There is a limit to the political force supporting the government under these conditions.

Ben-Me'ir stressed that, in his view, the prime minister is behaving with too much tolerance toward the foreign minister when the latter is making remarks in public which do not reflect the position of the government and its ministers. The foreign minister's statements concerning the status of the Golan Heights will apparently serve as an issue for debate in the NRP leadership this week.

Prof Moshe Arens, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, described the foreign minister's remarks as "unwise" remarks which do not improve Israel's political status and certainly do not help the settlers. Arens supports an urgent convening of the Likud Knesset faction. In reply to a question, he said that if it turns out that the foreign minister has no backing from the prime minister, he will have to draw conclusions from this.

The chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, MK Avraham Sharir, said yesterday in reply to a question by HA'ARETZ that attempts were being made to coordinate a meeting by the Likud Knesset faction not only with the foreign minister, as was mentioned at first, but also with the participation of Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Sharir explained that the questions disturbing the members of the Likud faction were as follows: Was there a political intent in the very fact of the timing of the foreign minister's remarks; and if so, did parliamentary procedures require the Likud faction to participate in considerations and decision? Was there any change in the Likud's declared political line? After all, in the platform and in the political debates, there was mention of the fact that the border with Syria would pass through the Golan Heights. Was this phrase being interpreted differently today?

It was reported from the prime minister's office that there was no foundation to the report that the prime minister had invited Foreign Minister Dayan to his office in the Knesset regarding his remarks on the Golan Heights.

The prime minister invited the foreign minister for consultations, together with the minister of defense, following the talk with the U.S. ambassador concerning the situation in southern Lebanon.

The chairman of the Alinement faction, MK Dani Rosolio, expressed concern at his faction's meeting at the remarks made by Moshe Dayan in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Rosolio said: "Dayan's statement gives legitimacy to regarding the Golan as having the same tailoring as the Sinai and that only the Jordan Rift Valley can be treated otherwise. This contradicts the draft proposal the Alinement submitted which says that the agreement with Egypt is not to be regarded as a model for an agreement with the other neighboring countries."

Mr Rosolio said further that there were settlements on the Golan of all streams of the settlement movement and they could not accept remarks such as those of Dayan.

In a broadcast over IDF Radio yesterday, Rosolio said that Dayan's remarks had caused grave damage and, in his view, he could not continue to serve in his office as foreign minister.

He added that for a long time now he has thought that the Israeli foreign minister should not be Dayan. "I think that the moves which led to Camp David and the form of peace with Egypt are the result of a policy constructed in part by Dayan. I see Dayan's announcement as a consistent one and if no conclusions have as yet been drawn concerning him, this should be done now, and quickly" he said.

The Labor Party's reactions team published the following remarks:

"Moshe Dayan's statement is an attempt to grant specific legitimization to the danger of uprooting settlements from the Golan Heights. A comparison between Sinai and the Golan Heights cuts the ground from under Israel's feet in any future negotiations with Syria. The Labor Party's position is specifically determined in two draft resolutions submitted to the Knesset; that is, that the agreement in Sinai cannot serve as a model for settlements on other fronts. The foreign minister's statement contradicts this position and serves as a sign presaging evil: the possibility of one rule for the Rafah approaches settlements and those of the Golan Heights and an opening for a complete evacuation of the Golan Heights by Israel. The Labor Party completely rejects this approach and will fight with all the means available to it for the Sinai model not to be repeated on the Golan Heights.

Mr Yosi Sarid of the Alinement, who appeared last night at the Kibbutz Artzi youth division, said that our history is taunting us. Dayan, whose positions dragged us down into the Yom Kippur War, is today showing a more realistic political view than those who are actually deciding on the establishment of new settlements on the Golan Heights.

Mr Hayim Druckman of the NRP said that the forein minister's statement was shocking and he would demand that the NRP faction discuss it.

Minister of Transport Hayim Landau reacted last night in reply to a question by HA'ARETZ in the following words: "If I have understood correctly what was writtn in the press, it seems to me that the statement was strange, amazing and unclear.

MA'ARIV ARTICLE ANALYZES DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

TA171520 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Apr 79 p 27 TA

[Avraham Tirosh article: "Struggles at the Top"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, Simha Ehrlich, Dr Yosef Burg, Prof Yiga'el Yadin and other political personalities are called the "leaders of their parties." But it seems that over the last decade there has been a devaluation in the title "party leader."

A covert or overt fight for leadership is now going on in almost all the parties, but mainly in the large ones. Apart from Menahem Begin (over whose leadership, too, complainst have recently been raised in his party, even if not in public) there is almost no party leader who is secure in his position, convinced that nobody is lying in ambush for him or plotting against him. Where there is not, for the moment, a struggle for the leader's position, there is a struggle over succession.

Despite Menahem Begin's undisputed leadership of the Herut Movement, to a certain extent the leadership crisis has also harmed him. To get up at the Herut Movement center and propose nonconfidence in the head of the movement, who is the prime minister--true, Gershon Solomon risked being "stoned" at the last meeting--is an action which would have been inconceivable a year ago.

It is true that Begin can still force passage of any decision in his party by using his status among the decisive majority of the members, but the fact that he is occasionally forced to use threats of resignation, open or hinted, damages something in his leadership. The results of the competition for the Herut's fifth Cabinet position--with about 40 percent of the center's members supporting Shmu'el Katz, a candidate that Begin opposes and has spoken against--was also a new phenomenon in the life of the movement.

But at this stage the competition in the Herut Movement is focussed on the second place, and the "succession" in the event of Begin's resignation. The key man in this competition is Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. After the Likud's victory in the Knesset elections, there was no doubt that he was the "heir." However, during the negotiations over the peace agreement, his status in the Herut Movement weakened because of his statements, which did not suit many members, and his outbursts and clashes with Begin at various stages.

Even one of his associates recently admitted: "I am inclined to accept the evaluation that Begin's status was also weakened during the same stage. Finally, this is the first time that a representative of the Herut Movement, in a national body, has expressed views which are not in accordance with the movement's traditional line. However, I think that he still has considerable support even now."

During the same period many Herut members thought that Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir had preference over 'Ezer Weizman in the struggle for the "succession." But it was speedily revealed that Shamir is at the other extreme--inclined toward the views of the extremists--and his status, too, was harmed in the eyes of many members.

'Ezer Weizman is due to change his attitude toward the party. Since the foundation of the current government, the defense minister has refrained from political activity and involvement, and this may also have harmed his status. Now, his associates say, he intends to gradually increase his involvement in the movement through meetings with members, participation in movement forums and preparations for the upcoming congress. Although over the last 2 years he has not dealt with organization in the movement, there are groups of activists who accept him and are acceptable to him, including some who had reservations about him at different stagesof the political negotiations.

One of these, one of the party's younger members, claimed 2 months ago that "Weizman cannot crystallize a consensus around him because the opposition to his political views is so great that many in the Herut would be prepared to give up the chance of winning the elections again under his leadership." Recently, he said: "'Ezer has come back to being a Likudnik, and I support him, assuming of course that he does not give up Judaea and Samaria."

Weizman now also takes care not to clash with Menahem Begin, and he intends to stand behind the prime minister at the upcoming congress as well. The question is whether the negotiations over autonomy will lead to a split between them because of their contradictory positions. If this process goes smoothly, Weizman will be firmly based in the party. If not--the other candidates will return to "play" in the arena: Yitzhaq Shamir, Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Arens.

If 'Ezer Weizman is in the arena, their chances are lessened and only their unification around another candidate--a step which appears to be difficult to implement--could possibly produce an opponent to the defense minister with any weight whatsoever. Over all this flutters the "shadow" of Ya'aqov Meridor, the former member of Knesset, whose name is constantly mentioned as a candidate for the movement's "number two." There is the belief in the Herut that if Meridor condescends to return to politics, he will be able to rally great support and even 'Ezer Weizman will not compete against him and will be prepared to accept him, for a transition period, as number two and heir.

However, Meridor is not anxious to return to political life, and there are those who say that he will not do so. At first he explained this by his commitment to save his businesses from difficulties. Now he has channeled all his activity into the housing issue. True, he has begun to appear at national and movement events, but those in the know claim that there are significant business and personal reasons which will prevent him from returning to political life.

In the Likud's sister party, the Liberal Party, the leadership situation is much more complicated. From the start, Simha Ehrlich was a different leader from those who preceded him. He became the party's leader through "donkey work." For years, he made personal contacts with the members and "pulled the strings" behind the scenes. He used to spend most of his time in the party building. Since being chosen minister of finance and immersing himself in his job, his status in the party has weakened, both because of the severe public criticism of him on national affairs and because he is no longer available to deal with regular party affairs.

However, anyone who puts the lid on Ehrlich as the leader of his party is making a mistake. It appears that he still has the power--if he wants it--to control the party, on condition that he returns to party activity. If he does not, his status may be so undermined that he will not longer be able to return to leadership even when he wants to. If the economic situation does not improve and the Likud fails in the elections because of this, Ehrlich's position will certainly be most difficult, even in his party.

The key question is, has Ehrlich any interest in party leadership? He has announced several times that he will no longer be a candidate for leadership of his party. Even now he has, in fact, transferred the role to his deputy, Minister Moshe Nisim (who was considered to be the weakest of the actual heirs, but who has been strengthened following his period in office). The proposal is that he be elected chairman at the congress at the end of the year, a role which has not existed since Dr Elimelekh Rimmelt's resignation. This situation has already led to sharp competition among several Liberal Party personalities over Ehrlich's successor, and created constant ferment within the party.

It is clear that Ehrlich will want to serve only in a representative role in his party. If he deigns to be party chairman, he will want to be the power in it by force of the post, despite the fact that in the past he controlled it as chairman of the leadership. Until recently it was clear that Ehrlich would indeed control the party from any post he held. But now, with his drawing further away from the regular activity and his delicate position in the Finance Ministry, this is no longer certain.

Despite his calm appearance and the coolness he displays, Ehrlich's confidantes can tell that the economic situation and the severe criticism of him are disturbing his rest. As opposed to this, he looks at what is happening in the party and on the struggle of the heirs almost as a spectator from the sidelines. Those close to him reveal that he would like very much to rehabilitate his image in the Finance Ministry by the end of the term--since it is clear to him that his proposal to advance the elections is not acceptable--and resign honorably. He has already said several times to his confidantes that he will not "run" for the next Knesset, since he does not intend to serve as a minister again and sees no point in being just a member of Knesset. At 66, he would like to retire to a calmer life and be appointed chairman of some sort of government company to have enough to keep him busy half the time.

Expert "Ehrlichologists" claim that between his heart's desire and its realization there is still a distance. In their opinion, Ehrlich will yet return to stir the party cauldron. As the congress gets closer, his activity in this sphere will increase. The truth is that he is not indifferent to the "struggle for succession" among ministers Gid'on Pat, Yitzhaq Moda'i and Moshe Nissim. When he wants to, he demonstrates his full skill in the field of political games.

In Ehrlich's relations with his three heirs, there is necessarily a sort of sway. In a private conversation on one occasion he said that he would regard Moshe Nissim as his heir were he not religious, since it is hard to put a religious man at the head of the secular Liberal Party. Between Ministers Pat and Moda'i, his support was naturally given to the former, who has been close to him in recent years, despite the fact that there h ve also been many clashes between them.

Thus, for example, Simha Ehrlich did not want Gid'on Pat's election--not to mention Yitzhaq Moda'i--to the Cabinet, and supported the candidacies of Arye Dulzin and Moshe Nissim. He tried to convince Pat to give up his candidacy in return for a promise that he would be appointed deputy minister. The result: The rivals Gid'on Pat and Yitzhaq Moda'i established a coalition of their supporters in the center and succeeded in getting elected in spite of the party leader's stand.

This coalition served, and serves to this day, as a "warning" to Ehrlich, who feared, at various times last year, that it might be renewed. His fears disturbed him so much that one day he felt the need to send Minister Pat a note at the Cabinet table asking whether there was any truth in the rumors that he and Moda'i had met secretly in the latter's home to plan a "revolt" against Ehrlich. Pat replied that he had not been in Moda'i's home for years....

Just as Ehrlich is suspicious of Pat-Moda'i, so Pat and his people suspect that Ehrlich may in the end create a coalition with Moda'i against Pat. Over the last year they have claimed that there are signs of this. The rumors on this matter grew to such an extent that the finance minister was forced one morning, less than an hour before taking off for abroad, to call Gid'on Pat and deny any rapprochement between him and Minister Moda'i. Pat told him: "I know that this is not true, exactly as it is not true that Moda'i and I are organizing against you."

Minister Moda'i was not content with his fight against Gid'on Pat and was the only one in the Liberal Party, a few months ago, who sharply criticized and complained about Simha Ehrlich's performance in the government and the party.

But lately a calm has set in between the two, and one of the finance minister's cronies has hinted that today there is indeed a rapprochement between Ehrlich and Moda'i--a move which "again raises the blood pressure" in the group of Minister Pat and MK Avraham Sharir.

The Liberal Party congress at the end of the year will be a signpost in the struggle for the leadership. Simha Ehrlich's real intentions will become clear there. Some are proposing that he continue as chairman of the leadership to prevent severe struggles between candidates for this post.

The third party in the Likud, La'am, has never been united under one undisputed leader, but a federation of three parties with several leaders. Yiga'el Horowitz is, indeed, considered the "leader of La'am," but his control never extended even overall the members of his original party, the National List. The split, in which two of them--MK's Amnon Lin and Yig'al Kohen--went with his opponents, proves this.

Even after the split it was made plain that the Horowitz branch of La'am was not united under his leadership, and it was no longer possible to prevent the resignation of members of the Greater Yisra'el Movement, headed by MK Moshe Shamir and Tzvi Shilo'ah. In the other branch of La'am the leader, as far as the outside is concerned, is Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostaq. But anyone who knows the situation there knows that MK's Ehud Olmert, Amnon Lin and Yig'al Kohen are not undermining his leadership only on the assumption that he will resign at the end of the term when he passes the age of 70.

Even in the party of the opponents to the peace agreement, which is now being established, there are leadership problems. One of the factors holding up various people and bodies from joining this party is the differences of opinion, which are not always expressed openly, concerning the leadership of this party. Not everyone is prepared to accept the leadership of the other and there are those who also complain about the candidacy of Prof Yuval Ne'eman as leader of this party.

In the Labor Party, the largest of the parties, Shim'on Peres serves as chairman of the party, but even those close to him admit that he is no more than the "first among equals." The trio now leading the party is: Shim'on Peres, Yig'al Allon and Hayim Bar-Lev--each one with his own status and role. As they are needed, Abba Eban, Hayim Tzadoq, Yisra'el Galilee, Shlomo Hillell, Gad Ya'aqobi and others are included in consultations at the top.

But Shim'on Peres cannot sit calmly in his seat. The shadow of Yitzhaq Rabin hovers over him and the party, and nobody knows what his future steps will be.

The relations between Rabin and Peres are officially severed. Both of them avoid clear answers to the question about the future. Rabin claims that when the time comes he will decide whether to compete against Peres for the party leadership. Peres replies in the same way, or with "the party will decide" to the question of whether he will offer Rabin a post in the government he will head. In private conversations Rabin says that the right which Peres assumed to compete against him when Rabin was prime minister is now at his disposal, and it is reasonable for him to want to actualize it.

On the other hand, it is clear from talks with those close to Peres that if he can--and he hopes he will be able to--he will not include Rabin in his government but, at the most, will offer him a post such as chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

In MAPAM, which is a partner in the Alinement with the Labor Party, there is no undermining the status of Secretary General MK Me'ir Talmi, although it is clear that he is not a leader of the type of Me'ir Ya'ari and Ya'aqov Hazan. He is personally acceptable to his colleagues, and the struggle is only because Talmi has announced his desire to resign. If he resigns, there is now no candidate acceptable to everyone for the post of secretary general.

Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg has been superficially the crowned leader of the National Religious Party [NRP] since the internal revolution in the party before the Knesset elections and the resignation of Dr Yitzhaq Rafa'el. However, even today there are those who claim that the real leader is Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. Superficially, the relations between the two are better than they have ever been, but there is suspicion. Burg is not pleased with the situation of Hammer "looking over his shoulder."

Over the last 2 years Hammer and his colleagues have not made any attempt to push Dr Burg or harm his status. On the contrary, there is a noticeable attempt by them to guard his honor. Hammer claims he is not pushing to the end. The supreme interest now is to preserve party unity and its good name. The young people do not want severe internal quarrels as in the days of Dr Yitzhaq Rafa'el.

It may also be assumed that Dr Burg will resign at the end of the term, when he will be nearly 73. However, it appears that anyone who relys on this may be surprised. Burg has no heir in the Lamifneh faction, the largest in the NRP, and there is a quite reasonable possibility that he will "run" for another term, or at least for part of one. The great paradox is that the young NRP members may well support the continuation of the interior minister's leadership.

The secretary of the Lamifneh and Hapo'el Hamizrahi faction, Rafa'el ben-Natan, has long made efforts to crown an heir to Dr Burg so that his faction will not lose seniority in the party leadership. However, all the names he has brought up, or which may yet spring up, such as Mk Avraham Melamed, IDF chief Rabbi Gad Navon, the director general of the "Bank Hamizrahi Hame'uhad," Aharon Me'ir and others, are not acceptable to the younger members as suitable for party leadership. The result is that until the authoritative election of Zevulun Hammer to the NRP leadership is guaranteed, the younger members are likely to support the continuation of Dr Yosef Burg's position as party leader.

Since its founding, the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) has been a classic example of the absence of dominant leadership. It was entirely based on a combination of a "team of stars" in the leadership, with a certain seniority to Prof Yiga'el Yadin. Even on its establishment, there were struggles over membership in the "leading team" and each one of the first six in the list pulled in his own direction. Professor Yadin did not succeed in imposing his leadership over the "stars" and this, too, was a considerable factor in the DMC's failure and disintegration.

It may be that Yadin's lack of political experience prevented him from exerting his leadership ability, and forced him to rely on the political experience of others, such as Shmu'el Tamir, who, in the view of his opponents in the DMC, finally led to the split. On the other hand, even MK Amnon Rubinstein, the leader of the Shinu'i Movement before the establishment of the DMC, did not win any compliments for his leadership ability even from his colleagues then, or now in the Shay Movement, who accused him of hesitancy and inability to break with Yadin earlier.

Today Yadin is considered to be the undisputed leader of the Democratic Movement, and there is no doubt that Tamir recognizes his leadership. The relations between them appear to be good and they coordinate positions. Tamir is scrupulous over Yadin's honor and seniority and praises his various activities, while Yadin was not sparing in his praise for the minister of justice at the joint birthday party recently held for both of them in the Knesset faction's room. Yadin then said that despite the fact that both of them grew up in the Rahaviya quarter of Jerusalem, he had not known Yamir well and heard only rumors about him. When he got to know Tamir closely, according to Yadin, he got to know a completely different man. Yadin then revealed that there had been attempts to create disputes between the two of them and to make Tamir suspect in his eyes, but they had not succeeded.

In spite of this, there are signs that Yadin has recently been treating Tamir with more caution and suspicion. There are those who claim that Tamir's respectful attitude toward Yadin springs only from his personal interests, which dictate that he should not now undermine Yadin's leadership so that he will be able to "come safely" back to the Likud.

Not long ago, a survey ordered by the Democratic Movement was published on candidates for the premiership if Menahem Begin were to resign. Quite surprisingly, Shmu'el Tamir's name appeared third, after Weizman and Peres and before Yadin. The survey was published by the Democrats. There were those who claimed that the result was surprising because Tamir's name had not been mentioned at all among the names suggested to those questioned about candidates for the premiership, and there was no precedent for the fact that a name not mentioned in the list should appear in such a high position. In reply, Tamir's defendents claimed that the question in the poll was who among the heads of the "other" parties was the candidate suitable for the office. At any rate, it is reasonable to assume th the results of the poll, as they were published, lit a "red light" for Yadin. Eve if he did not say anything to Tamir, it is known that he expressed his amazement of how such results had been published by the movement without his knowledge.

In the Shay Movement there is no single leader, even after the split from the Democrats. The duo of Amnon Rubinstein-Me'ir 'Amit is considered the party's leadership, and to avoid problems, care is taken not to put one against the other before it is necessary. However, the whole future of this movement, in its present format, is shrouded in fog. It is very doubtful whether Rubinstein and 'Amit will approach the coming elections together at the head of an independent movement or even within another body. If Shay does not appear independently, Rubinstein is leaning toward a center party, while 'Amit would certainly prefer to return to the Labor Party.

At the other extreme, in Agudat Yisra'el, there has been no leader since the death of Rabbi Yitzhaq Me'ir Levin. Until the internal elections, about 3 years ago, MK Rabbi Shlomo Lorenz was considered to be the heir, but he failed in those elections and was forced to stand as number three in the list for the current Knesset.

There is no doubt that the absence of any dominant leadership has a decisive influence on the functioning of the various parties in the country and on their hypertendency to splits and resignations.

CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS SITE OF TERRORIST CLASH, COMMENTS

TA171028 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Apr 79 TA

[Text] This morning the chief of staff toured the site of the clash with the terrorists and praised the soldiers who took part in the battle. The soldiers told the chief of staff they had come across the terrorists at short range and during the ensuing battle handgrenades were thrown.

In a talk with our military correspondent, Lt Gen Rafa'el Eitan said that the terrorist activity is being stepped up and there are indications pointing to a trend of killing for the sake of killing.

The chief of staff revealed that four terrorists bases have been set up in the area under UN control and with UN approval. According to his assessment, there are already several hundred terrorists in South Lebanon and the UN forces are not allowed to enter their bases.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT ANNEXES LAND IN WEST BANK

TA181129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT18 Apr 79 TA

[Text] The military government has, in accordance with a Cabinet decision, annexed about 3,000 dunams in the Tulkarm subdistrict near the Ari'el settlement. The military governor announced this to the mayor of Salfit and also to the Mukhtars of the villages of Mardah, Iskaka and Farkhah, in whose spheres the annexed land is located.

FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN WEST BANK

TA151356 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Apr 79 P 4 TA

[BY YOSEF TZURIYEL]

[Text] In addition to civilianizing three Nahal settlements in Judaea and Samaria four new settlements are expected to be established in the region in the near future.

It was reported by authoritative sources yesterday that a decision in principle on this issue has already been made on a senior governmental level. If there are no unexpected political delays, within 3 months the laying of infrastructure for the first settlement, near Nabulus, will begin. Another settlement will also be set up in Samaria and the other two in Judaea.

Budgets for these four settlements have already been provided. The nuclei intending to settle them are ready to move to their settlement sites. In the initial stage there is talk of sending 30 families to each settlement. The action of populating the settlement sites will be coordinated with the Gush Emunim Secretariat.

Besides the political obstacles involved in establishing these settlements there are further obstacles: Construction and Housing Minster David Levi believes that most funds and efforts should be invested in solving the housing problems of young couples and large families within the boundaries of the "green line."

Minister Gid'on Pat is not eager to direct investors to the settlement sites either. He believes that the development towns in the Negev and the Galilee come before the new settlement in Judaea and Samaria.

WEST BANK COUNCILS TO BE ELECTED IN 1980

TA142014 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1830 GMT 14 Apr 79 TA

[Text] Ramallah, 14 Apr--The elections for the Judaea and Samaria local councils will be held, in accordance with Jordanian law, at the end of March 1980. As has been learned, in a few months the military government will begin preparations for these elections. It has been reported that there is no connection between the municipal elections and the preparations for the implementation of autonomy in the area.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria notes that senior military government officers will renew the talks with public leaders and other personalities in the West Bank on the implementation of autonomy after the Passover holiday. At this stage, these will only be preliminary talks.

ZIONIST EXECUTIVE TO ESTABLISH 20 SETTLEMENTS IN NEGEV

TA131711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Apr 79 TA

[Text] In 3 years the Jewish Agency will establish 20 new settlements in Pithat Shalom, which is in the Negev. Fifteen of them are slated for Yamit District people. The chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, Arye Dultzin, reported this to representatives of the Yamit District settlements. Dultzin said that each settler from the district will participate in determining his future and in planning his new home and farm in Pithat Shalom. We are not evacuating settlements, he said, we are transferring them. We will transfer anyone who wishes to; anyone who does not will be dealt with by the Cabinet.

Dultzin emphasized to the settlers representatives that he regards the Negev as the future of the country. The Negev should not turn into a military camp, he said.

The representatives of the settlements said that they regard the Jewish Agency as the body responsible for their future and said they will continue to cooperate with the representative of its Settlement Department.

NE'OT SINAI SETTLERS THREATEN TO DISRUPT EVACUATION

TA171045 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 79 p 1 TA

[By David Apel and Arye Avneri]

[Text] Yesterday, the representatives of the Yamit Strip settlements threatened to disrupt the return of Al-'Arish to Egypt if the Israeli authorities do not meet their demands in principle for the compensation to be paid to the evacuees.

The representative of moshav Ne'ot Sinai, Yitzhaq Regev, said yesterday at the end of a meeting with the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar: "We will defend our green garden with our bodies and we will not permit its evacuation if no previous agreement is reached with us." The green garden of Ne'ot Sinai is located in an area which is supposed to be transferred to Egypt together with Al-'Arish.

In a meeting with Dr Ben-Elisar (the government's representative for affairs of the evacuees), Yamit representatives voiced their absolute opposition to the inclusion of the Jewish Agency as a partner in the negotiations over their evacuation. They also said they would oppose a collective evacuation and demanded that separate negotiations be held with each family.

In the course of the meeting it became clear that the positions of the government and the Jewish Agency had somewhat changed and that there was a readiness to resettle the evacuees not only in Pithat Shalom--as had been previously planned--but in other areas as well.

Summing up the talk, it was decided that both sides would try to reach a framework agreement within 1 month. Afterward, each settlement will start separate negotiations with the government's representatives.

The spokesman of the settlements to be evacuated, Shaul Sela from Moshav Sadot, said at the end of the talks that they had gained the impression that some sort of progress had been made toward reaching a solution.

LATE REPORT: HADDAD DECLARES SELF-RULE IN S. LEBANON

TA181609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Apr 79 TA

[Text] The commander of the militias in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'd Haddad, tonight declared self-rule in the area under his control, which will be called Free Lebanon. The area spans across about 700 square km and about 100,000 inhabitants live there, out of which 60,000 are Shi'ite Muslims, 40,000 are Christians and several hundred Druze.

Major Haddad convened a news conference in Metulla, where he explained that he acted thusly in light of the Lebanese Government's intention, which is scheming, he says, to also annex southern Lebanon to the Syrian's and terrorist's control by sending one of its battalions southward toward that end.

Haddad called on Lebanese President Sarkis to resign. He said that Free Southern Lebanon will once again unite with Lebanon only after the foreign forces are completely removed from Lebanese territory--the Syrians and the terrorists.

Our correspondent Yehezq'el HaMe'iri reports that prior to the declaration of the self-rule, a general meeting took place in Marj 'Uyun, with the participation of all the representatives of the fighters and the sects in the enclave area. The decision to establish Free Lebanon was made there.

Haddad said that he does not intend to hold elections because Free Lebanon is in a state of war. He denied that he had declared the self-rule in coordination with Israel. He determined that Israel only extends humanitarian aid and this does not entail dependency. He expressed the hope that this aid will continue and even increase in the future.

Haddad will test his position toward the UN emergency force in light of its behavior in the future.

SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES SANJAB, TUDEH PARTY, BUGGING

LD171830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] The government spokesman held a press conference this morning at which he revealed the existence of an extensive bugging network in ministries and government agencies.

'Abbas Amir Entezam told our correspondent, Abdorreza Nuri, that yesterday 35 former officials, including a number of those who sow corruption on earth, were arrested trying to escape across the country's southern borders.

One correspondent asked: Telephones in homes and offices are being bugged. One of the objections raised by His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani concerned the bugging of his home telephone. Is the government aware of this matter?

'Abbas Amir Entezam said: You know that the former regime had set up one of the most comprehensive systems of monitoring and intelligence gathering. One of these systems concerned bugging through the country's power grid. He explained: Recently seven transmitters which had been planted in the wall in my office in the form of nails were discovered. These were plugged into the electricity network and set to a specific frequency to record all telephone conversations. It has been ordered that all such transmitters in various agencies be uncovered and destroyed.

Amir Entezam added: There are certain individuals who engage in unwarranted interference without being associated with any organization. Even a few days ago, when I was talking with Khorramshahr by telephone, they openly cut in and listened to my conversation. He said: Of course, the possibility also arises that these individuals might be associated with various organizations or with SAVAK. The government spokesman pointed out that such a system of control does not exist on the part of the government whatsoever. If this situation continues he will have to change our communications system at great cost so that no one can engage in bugging.

Asked why the country's land borders have not been opened yet, 'Abbas Amir Entezam said: Unfortunately, we have many problems with border controls. For example, we received a report yesterday that 35 former officials, including a number of sowers of corruption on earth, were trying to cross the country's southern sea borders in a motor launch; they were arrested by patrol boats andhanded over to revolution committees. The government spokesman added that as these problems still exist, all the country's land and sea borders will be closed until further notice.

Our correspondent asked: From the government's standpoint, who would be described as a counterrevolutionary?

Amir Entezam said: All those who oppose the objectives of the revolution, and obstruct the legitimate demands of the people and distort their legitimate demands in such a way as to become an opponent of the Islamic government will be regarded as counterrevolutionary.

With regard to Dr Sanjabi's resignation, Amir Entezam said: His resignation was raised at the cabinet meeting last night and was accepted. Until a new foreign minister is appointed the ministry political under secretary will be responsible for handling the current affairs of the Foreign Ministry.

With regard to securing necessary foodstuffs for the people, the government spokesman said: Foodstuffs in adequate quantities are available and there is nothing to be concerned about in this regard. Recently, an agreement on securing meat supplies was concluded with Romania and, in addition, there is enough meat within the country for 6 months. He added: Since last December the number of ships carrying foodstuffs and other goods ordered by Iran have been unloading their cargo at ports on the southern side of the Persian Gulf, and even in Singapore, because of the strike at Iranian ports. These goods have been ordered to be transported to Iran by aircraft and ships.

Regarding the publication of the draft of the new constitution, the government spokesman said: Because the changes introduced into the constitution require some 2 months to complete, the date for the elections for the Constituent Assembly will be after the publication of the draft of the new constitution.

Regarding the list of those who are banned from leaving the country, 'Abbas Amir Entezam said: This list has been compiled in the office of the prime minister and includes people who have held important posts since 1958. He said: Of course, having held office is in itself not a proof of crime. We are busy trying to form a committee as soon as possible to investigate the case of those who are banned from leaving the country so that their position may be clarified.

One correspondent said: Under the existing constitution the activity of the Tudeh Party has been banned, and laws will be applicable until they are replaced by new ones. What will the government do with regard to Tudeh Party activity?

Amir Entezam said: The government is watching the activity of all political groups. With regard to the Tudeh Party, too, all the previous laws are applicable until they are repealed.

Returning to Dr Sanjabi's resignation, and the reason for it, the government spokesman said: In general, those who shoulder responsibility do so solely out of selfless dedication. There are, of course, many problems, but one must persevere to resolve the problems.

Further on the government spokesman said about the ministerial commissions: In order to resolve and identify the problems and difficulties which the government is facing, four commissions have been set up by the government, which prepare bills to be debated by the Cabinet. These are: Commission 1, which reviews military, protective and security matters of the country and for which Dr Yazdi is responsible; Commission 2, which is responsible for reviewing economic, administrative and financial problems and is under Mr Sabbaghian; Commission 3, which is concerned with judiciary matters, and Commission 4, which deals with cultural, educational and training problems. The government spokesman is responsible for these commissions.

Regarding the girls serving in the literacy corps who are holding a sit-in in the departments of education and training, Amir Entezam said: A plan has been prepared for them, which will be published once it is finally ratified; we have not let the matter drop, not even for 1 day.

Regarding the search for and prosecution of Bakhtiar and Valian [former governor general of Khorasan Province], about which one of the correspondents asked a question, the government spokesman said: All these people and criminals are being sought. I do not think they will be safe as long as they live, whether they are in Iran or abroad.

At Mr Amir Entezam's press conference today a proposal prepared by correspondents for a visit to prisons to inspect prisoners' conditions was delivered to the government spokesman.

SANJABI EXPLAINS REASONS FOR QUITTING FOREIGN MINISTRY

LD172300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1657 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Dr Karim Sanjabi, secretary general of the National Front who held the post of minister of foreign affairs in the Provisional Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has given correspondents his reasons for his resignation from the Foreign Ministry. The secretary general of the National Front said: When Engineer Bazargan invited me to take part in the Provisional Revolutionary Government--and although I knew that the ruling conditions of the day would not allow the emerging of fundamental changes within the government organization in a short time--I accepted the responsibility to taking part in the government purely in order to safeguard the unity of the revolutionary forces and to strengthen the provisional government to enable it to go through the interim period. During the hard period of struggle I felt it was my most important duty to strive to bring about unity within the ranks of the revolutionary forces. And apart from my selfless struggles against the plots of the despotic and repressive regime, I did not shrink from any effort in order to safeguard the solidarity of the struggling forces.

The downfall of the oppressive and bloodthirsty Pahlavi regime was the result of the selfsame unity of action of all the people's forces. Our nation's great revolution was not merely an internal event which took place in confrontation with an internal despotism. Rather the anticolonialist and anti-imperialist aspects of this revolution placed our nation against the covetous designs of the colonialist powers and of the regional lackey agents. This revolution has been a world phenomenon, and by enjoying a decisive leadership, our nation's profound faith, genuine freedom and independence dashed all colonialist calculations. There was no doubt that when faced by the greatness of the revolution of our nation the colonialist powers and domestic agents would resort to hatching plots. After the revolution ethnic and religious differences were put forward at the level of our society and confronted our nation's genuine revolution with domestic and foreign dangers and threats. Vigilant to the plots of counterrevolution at the beginning of its work, the provisional government was faced with a mountain of problems. However, the revolutionary spirit and the unstinting support of all the people caused the neutralization of the efforts of the counterrevolutionary elements in the first stages.

The government's tremendous success in that period was the holding of the referendum with the aim of conducting the official ceremony marking the downfall of the imperial regime and the setting up of the Islamic Republic.

Unfortunately, the breaking up of the law enforcement forces and the distribution of arms among the members of forces which lacked competence, the disruption of all the social and economic affairs, and on the whole, the government's lack of success in creating an executive power have resulted in the continuation of the chaotic state of affairs which came about following the downfall of the previous system of government in the country's administrative, economic and industrial organization, so that the government's efforts toward construction were not successful in this stage.

Dr Sanjabi then described the fundamental problems and said: Two other governments are emerging vis-a-vis the government. One is the economic, political and administrative remnants of the former regime, which still exist and interfere in various ways in the work of the government, and SAVAK's organizational networks and those of the rest of the foreign espionage organizations which are actively attacking and bearing arms against the revolutionary elements, are chanting discordant tunes by fanning the flames of ethnic and religious differences, and are bringing about practical problems for national unity and the people's security and the Revolution Guards. Any rumors about the revival and reconstruction of SAVAK in any form or shape indicate the continued existence of organizations of the former regime. By inciting the feelings and magnifying the demands of the various social groups, other elements from the previous regime have artificially magnified the level of the people's demands, which in most instances are logical and can on the whole be justified, and are preventing the beginning of work and the establishment of order and constructiveness.

Another form of government has emerged throughout the realm as multifarious powers under different titles and with their actions are bringing about the vanguard of repression. These multifarious powers, in the shape of various armed factions and irresponsible committees, each commanded by one group or one person and without paying heed to the guidelines provided by the revolution leadership and the provisional revolutionary government, are establishing their sovereignty vis-a-vis that of the government. There is fear that the differences in the personal tastes of the various groups will confront the decided victory of the revolution with immense problems and thereby bring about a vast tragedy, the first tragedy of which would be the sacrificing of individual and social rights and freedoms at this (?juncture).

The committees, which have played a fundamental role in establishing security and preventing counterrevolution and have rendered very valuable services to the sacred revolution of the nation, because of being infiltrated by certain suspect elements and by a number of opportunist elements and because of a lack of organization and of organizational unity in a great many instances, have appeared as negative elements, and in effect are enforcing their sovereignty vis-a-vis the government's exercise of sovereignty. The rules governing the workings of these committees are by no means clear, and even the reminders and guidelines of the revolution's leadership and those of the government and of the revolution prosecutor general are in a great many instances ignored.

The arbitrary actions by the multifarious centers of power, which are carried out by relying on the force of arms, have engendered a great fear and terror among the strata in society and thus have multiplied the government's difficulties. An instance of such acts of interference was the irresponsible meddling in the work of the Foreign Ministry, that is, the ministry for which I was responsible.

Such acts of interference took place in Washington and portrayed the Iranian consulates in the United States in such a light as to make it impossible for the government to tolerate the state of affairs in connection with the country's foreign policy.

The people's reactions and anxiety regarding the incident involving the arrest of the children of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, the great struggler of the revolution--an incident which serves as an example of these arbitrary and irresponsible actions--in themselves speak of a reality during which a liberal person--God forbid--may have to chant other eligies in lamenting freedom. The arrests and trials, the way they are taking place, give rise to the fear that it might not be possible to use them to expose the untold crimes which have been perpetrated against the children of this land. The criminals should be punished in a revolutionary way, but after observing all the principles and regulations ruling society. All the people should be aware of what is going on in these trials, and the documents thereof should be made public.

Another big problem of the government is the impossibility of carrying out executive projects and plans in order to solve current problems in the present stage of the revolution. Already all the exeuctive organizations on a countrywide level are as they were in the past--the provisional government does not enjoy absolute power, and the centers of power are scattered throughout the realm without the limits of their responsibility being specified. No fundamental changes have taken place in any of the administrative and economic organizations in the country. Instead of carrying out fundamental projects, the government authorities are attending to problems and issues on a daily basis, a fact which is the direct result of the existence of multifarious decision-making and executive centers.

In view of the fact that the continuation of this state of affairs in the country has been confronting us with big dangers; in view of the fact that the dispersion of the decisionmaking centers and those for exercising personal and collective powers are not compatible with the joint responsibility of ministers in administering the realm; in view of my fundamental beliefs and my struggles throughout my life to safeguard the lofty principles and standards of law and humanity; and in view of the fact that the administration of the realm is not being done in a desirable manner, divorced from the bothersome interferences by irresponsible elements and in order to issue a warning pertaining to the possible dangers ahead, I have been forced to resign and did not deem it fit to remain at the disposal of an administrative organization for the purpose of carrying out normal staff affairs and to continue as a member of the council of government without bringing about any fundamental changes in the present system. But my resignation should not be considered as a reaction against the government. This resignation is a reaction to the emergence of and growth of numerous irresponsible power centers which I hope will not culminate in anything except in the emergence and growth of a government exercising absolute sovereignty stemming from the will of the people.

In my opinion as a short-term and immediate program, the Provisional Revolutionary Government should carry out the following plan:

1. It should establish security throughout the country. What is meant by security is securing and guaranteeing personal rights and freedoms in an Islamic country based on Islam's system of social justice: judicial security and security against personal and collective transgressions; guaranteeing personal and social freedoms, particularly the freedom to publish one's thoughts and beliefs and to meet in a manner which the leadership of the revolution and other religious authorities and national leaders have repeatedly emphasized and announced.

Unfortunately this has not been observed in practice. Should the nation's great revolution during its first stage and as a first step be unable to translate into action this great demand by the people, it would be far removed from its fundamental aim.

In order to achieve this aim the armed irregular elements and forces, in order to prevent armed clashes resulting from differences in political views, should be turned into a national guard under the supervision and leadership of the revolutionary government and should serve and safeguard the achievements of the revolution and should protect the government and nation against any domestic and foreign counterrevolutionary plots, without directly participating in the internal affairs of the government and interfering in the personal relations and contradictions among the members of society and without being able, with the protection of a person or a group whether inside or outside the government, to limit the powers of the law enforcement forces and the judiciary. In order to carry out this aim, that is, safeguarding the revolution against any plot, the armed revolutionary organizations should be turned into a single, disciplined organization and be placed under the supervision and control of the government, and they should not be able to act outside the supervision of the government and independently, even by threatening armed action and probably even mutiny.

The provincial government or any other government which may enjoy the support of the leader of the revolution and of all the strata in society should act as the only ruling power, the sovereignty of which stems from the will of the people.

2. The manner in which the country's economic wheels are turning, just as you may witness, has made a great many of the country's workers, who played a fundamental role in the victory of the revolution, anxious about their fate. The existing plants and industrial centers should be operated to build a balanced economic system and in order to obtain a full employment level. The needed development plans should be implemented under immediate projects. The implementation of this order is impossible without strengthening the government's power and position throughout the country.

The practical method for realizing the two fundamental principles above, in my opinion, lies in the endeavor to establish sovereignty stemming from the will of the people, together with respect for individual rights and freedoms and making use of elements who are inspired by all the strata and forces in society, bearing in mind personal [as heard] power and competence.

I am greatly hopeful that this warning will make the national forces aware of their momentous mission and will prevent the emergence and widening of unpleasant incidents by preserving revolutionary unity and by strengthening a powerful, responsible and decisive government capable of making and implementing decisions.

Following the announcement of his statement, Dr Sanjabi answered questions put to him by correspondents. Pertaining to his candidacy for the post of president of the republic he said: The candidacy for the post of president should not have a personal form, but rather it should be put forward by organizations and associations which have been effective in the revolution. Should these organizations propose me as a candidate, I am ready, but should they propose another person or a number of other persons as candidates, I will go along with them. At the same time he denied that his resignation was aimed at his becoming a candidate for the post of president.

Pertaining to the referendum Dr Sanjabi said: This was a completely real and free referendum and revealed the true views of the Iranian people, and one could not doubt its correctness.

Pertaining to the abrogation of the military bilateral pact with the United States, Dr Sanjabi said: The Provisional Revolutionary Government entertains the selfsame ideas and beliefs in the matter of its foreign policy as the Iranian nation has shown all along in its struggles. He added: This government struggles against colonialist policy and has never intended to go along with colonialist policies. As for these agreements, the government has not yet had an opportunity to go through them. He emphasized that this government will combat every type of colonialist agreement and every type of capitulatory regime, whether weak or strong.

Pertaining to the role of the religious leadership in the revolution, Mr Sanjabi said: The decisive leadership of Ayatollah Khomeyni was a factor for accelerating this victory. At the same time, pertaining to the Revolutionary Council he said: Diverse views exist within the council. Right from the start I did not agree with and did not participate in the Revolutionary Council.

Pertaining to the government's supervision of the revolutionary courts, Dr Sanjabi said: As far as I know the government has not supervised the revolutionary courts and the Ministry of Justice, too, has not supervised them. At the same time he said: It is my opinion that in the revolutionary phase, revolutionary operations always take place, and as a result of the revolution some form of suspension of the normal state of law comes about. Dr Sanjabi defended Iran's revolutionary trials vis-a-vis the views expressed by those foreign governments which are dissatisfied with the Iranian revolution and these trials. But at the same time he said: I believe that these trials should be held openly and should be trials against the former regime.

In the same conference he spoke about Ayatollah Taleqani's role in the National Front saying: Although Ayatollah Taleqani was one of the steadfast cornerstones of the National Front, today he is above the parties.

DEMONSTRATING SOLDIERS SWEAR FEALTY TO KHOMEYNI, BAZARGAN

ID181210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 79 ID

[Excerpts] In response to the call by the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, and coinciding with Army Day, various units of the Iran Islamic Republic Army paraded through Tehran this morning. The people welcomed their army brothers along the route with flowers and shouted greetings to them. The soldiers shouted: The army is devoted to the nation; and with great enthusiasm the people replied by throwing coins and sweets to their army brothers, waving their hands as a sign of victory and answering: The nation is devoted to the army. Helicopters of the Iran Islamic Republic Army conducted maneuvers over the streets of Tehran and performed several demonstration flights.

The soldiers in the parade scattered leaflets among the people in which was written:

In the Almighty's name, we the Muslim soldiers of the most sensitive times of history swear to God Almighty and the holy Koran before the Muslim and struggling Iranian people that we will not spare our lives and property in protecting the achievements of the Islamic revolution of Iran under the leadership of the esteemed leader, Imam Khomeyni, and will be the true supporters of the Mehdi Bazargan government.

DEMONSTRATIONS DEMAND AYATOLIAH TAIEQANI'S RETURN TO TEHRAN

ID171156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Various groups of people in Tehran and other cities staged demonstrations this morning and demanded the return of Ayatollah Taleqani to Tehran. These groups condemned all forms of conspiracies which are aimed at breaking the unity of the Iranian revolution.

In Tabriz, Zanjan, Gorgan and several other cities, over 50,000 students and various groups of people demonstrated this morning carrying pictures of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, and the great mujahid, His Excellency Ayatollah Taleqani. They demanded a clarification of the news stories concerning Ayatollah Taleqani. Similarly, in Rasht and Mashhad and in ports and islands of the Persian Gulf, demonstrations were also held for this purpose.

Our correspondent reports that demonstrators in Zanjan marched through the city streets and held a meeting in front of the governor general's office, where they read out a four-article resolution on this matter.

A large group of students and other people held marches today in Tehran in support of Ayatollah Taleqani. A meeting was also held at Tehran University. Our correspondent reports that the students marched in separate groups, carrying pictures of Ayatollah Taleqani and expressing their unanimous support for him.

Similarly, groups held a meeting in Park-e Mellat in front of the Jam-e Jam and expressed their support for Ayatollah Khomeyni and Ayatollah Taleqani. They shouted this slogan: To Humiliate the Ayatollah Is To Humiliate Our Nation.

Students Demonstrate

ID181215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Simultaneous with Army Day today, there were scattered demonstrations in various parts of Tehran in support of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani. According to our correspondent the demonstrators, mostly high school students, marched along the central streets of Tehran and chanted slogans such as: "Independence, Freedom, Return of Taleqani!" "Greetings to Taleqani, the Support of Toilers!" and "Death to Reaction!" The marchers demanded the return of Ayatollah Taleqani.

The University of Tehran, too, was much more crowded today than on previous days. Many of the demonstrators arrived in the campus and broke up into various groups and participated in the students' political debates.

At the same time a number of Tehran primary and high schools were either closed or half-closed, and the students on foot and some in open trucks shouted slogans in support of Ayatollah Teleqani, demanding his return.

Thousands of students and other sections of the Sari citizenry also staged a march through the city today in support of Ayatollah Taleqani. Bearing pictures of Ayatollah Khomeyni and Ayatollah Taleqani, the demonstrators demanded the reopening of the offices of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani and denounced any plot that might destroy the individual and social freedom and harm the republic of Islamic justice.

REVOLUTION COMMITTEES DENY KIDNAPING TALEQANI RELATIVES

LD171430 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] This statement was issued today by the Central Committee of the Islamic revolution of Iran in connection with the subject of His Excellency Ayatollah Taleqani's sons:

In the name of the Almight; dear compatriots, in recent days, as a result of the arrest of Ayatollah Taleqani's sons, severe attacks have been made by some groups and individuals against agents of the committees, and some elements of the press have enlarged the problem and provocatively aggravated it. While we confirm some of the shortcomings and unintentional mistakes due to the sensitivity of the situation which may occur as a result of the excessive zeal and scrutiny exercised by committee officers, we frankly declare that neither this center nor any of the 14 committees in Tehran not only did not have any part in the arrest of Ayatollah Taleqani's sons but on the testimony of reliable individuals, on 12 April, after the announcement by the voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the pursuing of three cars and following telephone call to the Central Committee, we put all our resources and agents on the alert to arrest the kidnapers of Ayatollah Taleqani's sons and to find the cars. The committee's officers performed their humanitarian duties with dedication and scrupulousness, and after the appearance of Ayatollah Taleqani's sons, we called off the search for the cars at the request of the Central Committee.

For this reason, the arrest of Ayatollah Taleqani's sons by individuals or groups will be investigated. Unfortunately, in the past also, because of certain shortcomings, these kinds of incidents have occurred, which is sometimes unavoidable in a changing and revolutionary society. Taking into consideration the above facts, we frankly declare that the untrue reflection of this incident and accusation of the committee and thier faithful agents is part of a conspiracy to weaken the self-confidence of this group. But, with the aid of the great God, the agents of the committees who have given up sleep and rest by maintaining the security and safety of our compatriot sisters and brothers, will never surrender to such antirevolutionary plots, and these provocations will not weaken their strong determination to perform their duty before God and the people. Obviously, the aim of the Central Committee is to cleanse the committees of officials and employees who are irresponsible, and occasionally incompetent.

[Signed] Central Committee of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Commission To Inform People

LD171900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the prosecutor general of the revolution of the Iranian Islamic Republic:

In His Almighty name, following the regrettable incident relating to the children of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani and its repercussions, which are no doubt a disgusting conspiracy by foreigners and those associated with them, the office of the prosecutor general of the revolution of the Iran Islamic Republic will pursue the matter with all its resources and shortly inform the leader of the revolution and the struggling Iranian nation about the report of a commission of inquiry. I ask (?all) the Iranian people, with revolutionary forbearance and calm, to neutralize the foreigners' intrigues aimed at sowing dissension, and to realize that the enemy, with alertness, is lying in wait to exploit your genuine revolution and to hatch a plot aimed at crushing it.

[Signed] Mehdi Hadavi, prosecutor general of the revolution of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

Taleqani Contacts Son

LD171302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] The radio station has received the following telephone message from Mohammad Reza Taleqani, the son of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In a telephone contact with His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani last night, his eminence told me that while expressing thanks for the people's sincere and pure sentiments, he asks the people to restrain their emotions and feelings and not to do anything that might incite or possibly play into the hands of certain opportunist and adventurist elements. His eminence stressed once again that the matter is not personal and is in no way related to his children. Instead, it must be viewed in the context of the deprived masses of the nation and of guarding the dear country's freedom and independence, and in the context of the fear that the country might once again plunge into the pit of dictatorship and despotism.

TRIBAL LEADERS MEET WITH BAZARGAN 16 APRIL

LD172116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Fifteen leaders of the local tribes and Bani Ka'abeh Shadegan tribes of Khuzestan met and held talks yesterday with Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the provisional Islamic Government of Iran. At this meeting, Engineer Abdul Ghani Salemi, on behalf of this delegation, said: The Muslim Arab tribes of Shadegan, Khuzestan, oppose all forms of separatism in any part of Iran, and strongly denounce conspiracies, but request more consideration regarding their demands and those of all Iranian nationalities.

He added that the Arab Muslim tribes of Bani Ka'abeh if Iran whose main center is in Shadegan and with its other sections in Ahvaz, Abadan, and Khorramshahr and who live in other towns in Khuzestan, like other compatriots, will not refrain from any sacrifice to safeguard the foundations of the revolution, and, while backing the Islamic revolution, will fight its enemies. The representatives of the leaders of the tribes and local representatives of Bani Ka'abeh Shadegan of Khuzestan later informed the prime minister of their demands which constituted nine points.

TEHRAN REPORTS LIGHT EARTHQUAKE IN TABRIZ

LD171257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Text] At 0901 this morning an earthquake measuring 2 on the Richter scale, which was felt up to 5 km from the epicenter, shook the city of Tabriz. The earthquake caused neither damage nor injuries.

FORMER SAVAK CHIEF IN SHIRAZ ON TRIAL

LD172127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 79 LD

[Excerpt] The third bench of the Tehran Islamic Revolutionary Court has been in session since about an hour ago to investigate charges brought against Mohammad Taqi Javan, the former SAVAK chief in Shiraz and Parviz Sabeti's accomplice. Acting against the country's independence and security, weakening national sovereignty, setting fire to and rolling in the blood of the people of Shiraz in mosques and holy places, exercising repression against students abroad while holding the post of the former shah's first secretary at the embassy in Bonn, leading club wielders [words indistinct] to put down the defenseless and valiant citizenry of Shiraz, waging war against God, his messenger, the Iranian people and the imam's representative, and sowing corruption on earth are among the charges in the indictment of the Islamic Revolutionary Court against Mohammad Taqi Javan.

FORMER MEMBERS OF ETERNAL GUARD EXECUTED

LD180900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Text] In order to implement Islamic justice and to fix the penalty of the accused transgressors against the people's rights and to cleanse the army of elements who, with treacherous activities, were thinking of forming an anti-masses army, the fourth branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Tehran considered the charges against Col Parviz Shemirani; 2d Lt 'Abdullah Haj 'Abassi; 2d Lt Mustafa Rakshan; army 1st Sgt Hojatollah Ashrafi; army 2d Lt Reza Mumivand; and soldier Hematollah Moradi--all members of the Eternal Guard. According to the verdict of the Islamic Revolutionary Court they were sentenced to death for waging war against God, God's messenger, the people of Iran, and the imam's representative; for sowing corruption on earth, and effective and direct participation in killing and massacring the struggling people of Tehran and Iran on 8 September 1978, black Friday, and during the days of the rule of the black military government. The death sentence was carried out at 0250 this morning.

BANGLADESH

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER DESAI HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ZIA

BK171426 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The second round of official talks between Bangladesh and India was held in Dacca today. President Ziaur Rahman and the visiting Indian Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, led their respective delegations at the hour-long talks held at Banga Bhawan. President Zia and Prime Minister Desai initially met for about 45 minutes aided by their foreign ministers. They were later joined by the two delegations.

Briefing newsmen after the talks, the foreign secretaries of two countries described the talks as very satisfactory and said they covered all aspects of bilateral relations, including cooperation in economic and other fields. Both sides also discussed the question of ratification and implementation of the border agreement between the two countries signed in 1974.

At the end of the talks Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said he was very happy over the talks on bilateral issues between the two countries. He said various groups submitted their reports this morning on transport and telecommunications, water resources, railways, economic cooperation and joint ventures in the industrial sector.

Replying to a question on outstanding issues between the two countries, Mr Vajpayee said that the Joint River Commission will meet shortly in New Delhi to discuss [words indistinct] of sharing the Ganges waters.

Earlier this morning the Indian prime minister was presented with the key of Dacca city at a ceremony held at Banga Bhawan by the mayor of the city, Mr Abul Hasnat. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Desai said the friendship between Bangladesh and India is being forged firmly and strongly, particularly during the last 2 years. He said we are not only neighbors but are also bound by the ties of culture, history and common ideals.

Earlier in his address of welcome, the mayor of Dacca city said Bangladesh and India have close historical and cultural ties.

Later, President Zia called on the Indian prime minister and stayed with him for some time. A delegation from the Federation of Chambers of Commerce also called on Mr Desai.

Departure for Delhi

BK180521 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 18 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The Indian Prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, left Dacca for New Delhi this morning, ending this 3-day good will visit to Bangladesh

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Indian prime minister said his stay in Bangladesh was very happy and pleasant. There has been no difficulties at all. Everyone has been kind, and this is an indication.

President Zia, who also spoke to newsmen, said his talks with the Indian prime minister were very good and successful. He said: We mainly discussed bilateral and international issues. A joint communique will be issued later today.

The Indian prime minister was seen off at the airport by President Zia. Others who were present at the airport were the vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar; the prime minister, Shah Azizur Rahman; Cabinet ministers, heads of diplomatic missions and high civil and military officials.

Desai's Dacca Remarks

BK180353 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister has denied that India's nuclear capability poses any threat to neighboring countries. He said it is used only for peaceful purposes.

Speaking to newsmen in Dacca last evening, Mr Desai said that nuclear threat in general will always exist until a total ban on nuclear weapons comes into force. As far as India is concerned, the prime minister said, we have unilaterally banned it. What other guarantee can India give to reassure its neighbors? he asked.

Answering a question, the prime minister said Pakistan had told him that its nuclear efforts are also for peaceful purposes.

About India's relations with China, Mr Desai said that China is trying to improve her relations with us, and India has responded to her initiative, but improvement of relations between the two nations depends on the settlement of the border question and occupied Indian territory, he said.

The prime minister is returning to New Delhi today after his 3-day visit to Bangladesh.

INDIA

PRESS REPORTS PAKISTAN PREPARING TO TEST ATOMIC BOMB

BK180647 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 18 Apr 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Apr (AFP)--Pakistan is preparing to test an atomic bomb, Indian newspapers here revealed this morning.

The reports added that the United States had just renewed its offer to supply Pakistan with 50 Northrop F-5E Tiger fighter planes equipped with air-to-ground missiles.

The newspapers commented on a "change of attitude" in the U.S. administration which had suspended military and economic aid of $85 million to Pakistan following disclosures in January concerning Pakistani preparations to explode an atomic bomb.

The United States has renewed its proposal to provide the fighter planes to prevent the preparations from continuing, the Indian reports said. They added that the United States was believed to be backing the Pakistani proposal to have the entire Southeast Asian region declared a denuclearized zone.

The newspapers recalled that India, which exploded an atomic bomb 5 years ago near its border with Pakistan, was against the proposal as it was limited to a geographic zone and was no guarantee in the event of a "nuclear holocaust."

Both the independent TIMES OF INDIA and the pro-Soviet PATRIOT wrote that Pakistani leaders "need the bomb" for reasons of interior politics, after the tensions created by the death of former Premier Zulfiqar Bhutto.

The TIMES OF INDIA said the Pakistani atomic bomb would be financed by oil-rich Arab countries dreaming of an "Islamic bomb." But the PATRIOT reported that it would be made with Chinese aid and the secret consent of the United States which was anxious about the situation in neighboring Iran and Afghanistan.

The PATRIOT's correspondent in Moscow reported that the Pakistani bomb would be tested "in several months" and that it would be a "dirty" bomb, like the first one exploded in China.

The TIMES OF INDIA said that India would do well to cultivate its relations with the Soviet Union. It hoped that the proposal made by Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin during his visit here last March to "give a new dimension" to military cooperation between the Soviet Union and India would materialize during the visit to India next week of Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov.

PRIME MINISTER DESAI RETURNS AFTER VISIT TO BANGLADESH

BK180839 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that his visit to Bangladesh has helped strengthen the friendship between the two countries. Mr Morarji Desai was talking to newsmen at Delhi Airport on his return this morning after a 3-day visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Charan Singh, several of his Cabinet colleagues and others. Mr Desai described the visit as very friendly and useful. Speaking about the illegal border crossing, Mr Desai said that arrangements will soon be made to stop this.

Earlier, in Dacca, Mr Desai was given a warm send off. Among those present to see him off at the airport were the Bangladesh vice president and the prime minister. The AIR [All-India Radio] Dacca correspondent, D.C. Bhownick, understands that Mr Desai and President Ziaur Rahman had their last-minute unscheduled meeting this morning before the joint communique was finalized. The joint communique is expected to be released this evening simultaneously in New Delhi and Dacca.

External Affairs Minister Mr Vajpayee, who accompanied Mr Desai, told newmen in New Delhi that the question of minorities and the issue of hostile Mizos seeking asylum in Bangladesh was discussed with Bangladesh leaders.

RAM: INDIA'S DEFENSE TAKES PRC, PAKISTAN 'INTO ACCOUNT'

BK131723 Hong Kong AFP in English 1710 GMT 13 Apr 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)--Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram today said that India's defence preparedness had taken into account any possible threat from China or Pakistan.

Participating in a "face-to-face" programme on Delhi television with journalists, the defence minister noted that it was the policy of this country to work towards relaxation of tension with China. Nor did he anticipate any "misadventure" on the part of Pakistan in the wake of the execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former Pakistan premier.

All the same, Mr. Ram made it clear that "we have to keep our preparedness so far as China is concerned" and take into account the risk of even "mad actions" by Pakistan against India.

At one stage it appeared that the tension with China "might be relaxed to some extent," the defence minister said. He, however, recalled that the Chinese attack on Vietnam came off even as Indian Foreign Minister A.B. Vajpayee was touring that country (China) "in our quest for peace" with them. "It had put the entire world athinking," he claimed.

The attack on Vietnam had been more or less condemned by most countries, he said.

India was also considered by many countries as an emerging nation in Southeast Asia and Asia, to which many countries looked up for assistance and guidance. "Perhaps China will not like that situation," so from this aspect also "we have to keep our preparedness so far as China is concerned," Mr. Ram said.

GOVERNMENT INQUIRING INTO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GANDHI

SK140342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Apr 79 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said that the government is making enquiries into the allegation that Mrs Gandhi had received money from the United States. The allegation had been made by the former U.S. ambassador to India, Mr Moynihan. Mr Vajpayee, who was on his way to New Delhi from Patna, told newsmen in Calcutta that Mr Moynihan's allegation is a serious one and cannot be brushed aside.

The Congress president, Mrs Gandhi, has again said that she or her party never received money from the U.S. Government to fight elections. Addressing a party convention in Jammu, she described the allegation as baseless.

U.S. Embassy Demonstration

BK151042 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 15 Apr 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 15 Apr (AFP)--Police arrested 35 demonstrators of the Congress (Indira) Party who were protesting before the American Embassy here against remarks by former American Ambassador Patrick Moynihan that Mrs Indira Gandhi had received money from the U.S. Government for electioneering.

The demonstrators numbering several hundred burnt an effigy of President Carter and shouted slogans denouncing Mr Moynihan and the American Government.

Mr. Moynihan was reported to have said, in his recent book "Dangerous Place", that Mrs Gandhi took money twice from America for the Congress Party in her capacity as a party official to fight election in Kerala and West Bengal. Mrs Gandhi has already denied the charge as "mischievous, malicious and baseless."

The demonstrators were prevented from entering the embassy compound by a strong contingent of mounted police.

Mr Moynihan's allegations have produced strong reactions among Indian politicans who have asked the government to institute an enquiry into the matter. Some members of Parliament have also demanded a debate on the issue in the lower house of Parliament.

AFP: MRS GANDHI CHARGED WITH HARRASSING OFFICIALS

BK161555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 16 Apr 79 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 16 Apr (AFP)--The government's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today charge-sheeted former Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi in a Delhi court of law for alleged harrassment of four government officials during her [words indistinct] emergency rule.

Also accused in the case were Mrs Gandhi's then additional private secretary R.K. Dhawan and former director of C.B.I. D. Sen.

One of the charges against the three was that they entered into a "criminal conspiracy" to institute false cases against the officials who were collecting information to facilitate answering a parliamentary question on the affairs of the "Maruti" car factory owned by Mrs Gandhi's younger son, Sanjay Gandhi. The charge-sheet said the false cases were framed against the officials as a "revenge" for collecting information on "Maruti."

This charge was among several "emergency excesses" examined by the specially set up inquiry commission headed by former Indian Chief Justice J.C. Shah.

DELHI CITES REPORTS ON U.S. WARSHIPS IN INDIAN OCEAN

BK171019 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Agency reports quoting Pentagon sources say that a second U.S. aircraft carrier and a frigate have moved into the Indian Ocean. With this, the number of American warships patrolling in the Indian Ocean has gone up to 14. This is the highest concentration of U.S. warships in the area since the 1973-74 oil crisis.

MINISTER OF STATE KUNDU SPEAKS ON SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

BK171032 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0853 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Samarendra Kundu, minister of state in the Ministry of External Affairs, said at a function held to celebrate the 32d anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 16 April that Indo-Soviet friendship had stood the test of time and the fears that it would suffer a setback with the Janata government assuming office had been proved baseless, reports PTI. Friendship did not draw strength from the fortunes of any political party or individuals. Friendship was in the interest of the peoples of the two nations, and it also served the wider cause of world peace.

In the coming years, Kundu said, India and the Soviet Union should cooperate with other like-minded countries in helping the newly-independent countries to consolidate the gains of their independence through economic development. "We do not believe that dividing the world into spheres of influence would contribute to peace, whether such spheres are carved out and maintained by the force of arms or through economic domination," the minister said.

He added that the developments over the past 2 years had demonstrated in non-ambiguous terms that India is committed to pursue a policy of genuine nonalignment which could ensure independence of judgement and freedom of action.

Kundu called upon all friendly countries, particularly the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, to join in making the North-South dialogue more meaningful and productive. "It is a matter of deep regret that this dialogue has so far produced no worthwhile results," he said.

The Soviet ambassador, Y.M. Voronstov, said India's nonparticipation in power blocs had greatly enhanced its prestige in international areas. The Indo-Soviet treaty of friendship, he said, was an important international document, and friendly relations between the two countries met the aspirations of the peoples of the two nations.

13 BIHAR MINISTERS RESIGN EN BLOC

BK171620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] In Bihar, 13 ministers today resigned en bloc, creating a major crisis in the 22-month old state Janata ministry headed by Mr Karpuri Thakur. Of these ministers, 10 are of Cabinet rank and the rest are ministers of state. This was announced by former state finance minister Kailashpati Mishra at a news conference at Patna a short while ago.

Mr Mishra said that they have resigned to help the formation of a better government. They submitted their resignations to the secretariat of the chief minister.

Earlier, the state Janata Party chief, Mr S.N. Singh, told the AIR [ALL-INDIA RADIO] Patna correspondent that all ministers belonging to the erstwhile Jan Sangh and Congress-I have decided to resign. He said that these ministers are quitting office to free themselves from the obligation of voting in favor of the chief minister in the trial of strength in the Janata legislature party meeting scheduled to be held next Thursday.

PAKISTAN

KYODO: PRC-TRAINED PAKISTANIS SENT TO HIT AFGHAN TROOPS

OW141331 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 14 Apr 79 OW

[By Dilip Ganguly, KYODO staff writer]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 14 Apr (KYODO)--About 1,000 Chinese-trained Pakistani guerrillas expert in ultrasubversive activities have been dispatched to carry out flash assaults on Afghan troops guarding the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and give protection to the Afghan rebel forces, Indian intelligence sources and reports from the border areas said Saturday.

The guerrillas were sent from their training bases around Khasgar in Xinjiang Province to the sensitive areas bordering Afghanistan, according to the reports.

Since 1973, about 6,000 Pakistanis selected from various army units have been receiving guerrilla training in the bases in Xinjiang.

The original aim of the training was to use them against India, but now with Afghanistan emerging as a potential enemy, the Chinese and Pakistani authorities have embarked upon a plan to use them against the pro-Moscow regime of Nur Mohammad Taraki, the reports said.

Indian intelligence sources analyzing the development said that the deployment of Pakistani guerrillas along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border "is a part of a common military strategy evolved between Beijing and Islamabad to combat potential implications of the Soviet warning to Pakistan against interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

Though the Indian intelligence sources refused to hazard a guess about the actual movement of the Chinese-trained Pakistani guerrillas in other areas, unconfirmed reports said that an unspecified number of them had also been sent to Kunming in Yunnan across old Burma road. "A temporary base has been made at Chengdu...which is being as [as received] a meeting base for all Chinese trained guerrillas", the reports said.

Indian military intelligence monitored the movement of Lt Gen F.A. Chisthi, corps commander in charge of Pakistan's northern division including occupied Kashmir, who recently visited the border areas and said that he had a series of meetings with Chinese commanders of the area. "Lieutenant General Chisthi discussed issues like strategic posting of the guerrillas, supply route of the already agreed Chinese military hardware and exchanged ideas on a joint effort to keep ready a task force to subvert possible Soviet military help to Afghanistan in the event the Afghan rebels manage to start a war against the regime."

The reports said that printed leaflets have also been circulated along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border assuring the rebels of Pakistan's help. The leaflets issued in the name of "Islamic brotherhood" say that Iran has also agreed to help the "Islamic rebels" fight against the communists.

Since the Nur Mohammad Taraki regime came to power in April last year, the fanatic Muslims in the country have been agitating against it.

Confirmed reports said that about 35,000 Afghan rebels have fled to Pakistan. Three thousand others crossed over to Iran via Herat Province, but were driven back by Iranian troops.

MUSLIM LEAGUE CHIEF MEETS WITH PRESIDENT HAQ IN ISLAMABAD

BK1711129 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The Pakistan Muslim League [PML] chief, Pir Saheb Pagaro, has said he had detailed talks with the president, Gen Mohammad Ziaur Haq, last night. In an interview with PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL] in Islamabad late last night, Pir Saheb said he discussed the overall political situation with the president including the Pakistan Muslim League issue, PNA [Pakistan National Alliance], general election, local bodies election and the law and order situation.

The PML chief said that he will have a meeting with the JUP [Jamait-Ulema-i-Pakistan] chief, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, in Karachi very soon.

FEDERAL CABINET MEETS FOR LAST TIME 17 APRIL

BK171730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] A press release issued from the CMLA [Chief Martial Law Administrator] Secretariat says the last formal meeting of the outgoing federal cabinet was held in Rawalpindi today under the chairmanship of Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The president informed the cabinet that it will cease to function next Saturday, when the new arrangement would come into force. He thanked the ministers for their cooperation and paid tribute to their untiring efforts in discharging their responsibilities to the best of their ability during their tenure of office.

The ministers expressed their gratitude to the president for his guidance and inspiration.

SRI LANKA

U.S., USSR ASKED TO FREEZE INDIAN OCEAN PRESENCE

BK171428 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Colombo, 17 Apr (AFP)--Sri Lanka has asked the United States and the Soviet Union to resume their talks on "freezing" their military presence in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed said today. Mr Hameed told a press conference the request was conveyed to the two super-powers through their permanent representatives at the United Nations in New York three weeks ago.

He said Sri Lanka made this move as a country situated in the Indian Ocean, as the prime mover of the proposal to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and also as current chairman of the nonaligned conference.

Mr Hameed said the United States and the Soviet Union have also been invited to address the inaugural session of the conference of Indian Ocean littoral and hinterland countries to be held under United Nations

The Sri Lankan minister said that the United States and the Soviet Union have suspended their talks on demilitarisation of the Soviet Union since February last year.

HAMEED DENIES U.S. ROLE IN BANDARANAIKE DEFEAT

BK171429 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 17 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Colombo, 17 Apr (AFP)--Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed today angrily rejected a reported accusation by India's former Premier Indira Gandhi that the United States was responsible for ousting the previous government here in 1977.

Newspapers had carried agency reports quoting Mrs Gandhi as having told a public meeting at Poonch in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir last Thursday that the United States was responsible for the downfall of her government as well as those in Sri Lanka and Pakistan in 1977.

Asked for his comments at a press conference about Mrs Gandhi's accusation, Mr Hameed snapped "As far as we are concerned there was no foreign involvement. It (the victory of the present ruling United National Party) was the verdict of the people of Sri Lanka." Mr Hameed added that the government here was "looking into this." Asked to elaborate Mr Hameed said the government must first find out the veracity of the newspaper reports.

At the general election in June 1977 the government of former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike was swept out of power when the United National Party of J.R. Jayewardene won 140 seats in the 168-member Parliament. Mr Hameed also drew the attention of the pressmen to the reasons given by Mrs Bandaranaike for her election defeat in an interview to the "SURYA" magazine published in India by Mrs Manekha Gandhi, daughter-in-law of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

He said that in the interview Mrs Bandaranaike had cited the rising cost of living and unemployment worsened by international economic conditions as the reasons for her defeat.